



# IMPERIAL GAZETTEER.



BENGAL,

PRESIDENCY DIVISION.



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# PRESIDENCY DIVISION.

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## PRESIDENCY DIVISION.

**Presidency Division.**—A Commissionership of Bengal extending from the Ganges on the north to the Bay of Bengal on the south and lying between 21° 31' and 24° 52' N., and 87° 49' and 89° 58' E. The head-quarters of the Commissioner are at CALCUTTA, and the Division includes 6 Districts with area, population and revenue as shown below:—

DISTRICT.	Area in square miles.	Population in 1901.	Land revenue and cesses, 1903-04, in thousands of rupees.
24-Pargannas ... ..	4,644	2,078,353	20,83
Calcutta ... ..	82	847,700	18
Nadik ... ..	2,703	1,607,401	10,94
Murshidabad ... ..	2,143	1,333,181	12,14
Jessore ... ..	2,023	1,613,163	10,60
Khulna ... ..	4,765	1,663,043	9,24
<b>TOTAL ...</b>	<b>17,000</b>	<b>8,023,028</b>	<b>63,43</b>

**NOTE.**—Calcutta is not strictly speaking a District of the Presidency Division, but it is usual and convenient to treat it as such. In the Report of the Census of 1901 the area of the 24-Pargannas was shown as 2,103 square miles, excluding the Sunderbans; the area figures given above were supplied by the Surveyor-General; they include 2,911 square miles in the Sunderbans. The area of Khulna includes 2,688 square miles in the Sunderbans.

The population was 7,427,343 in 1872 and 8,211,986 in 1881; in 1891 it had grown to 8,535,126 and in 1901 to 8,993,028. There are 514 persons to the square mile compared with 474 in Bengal as a whole. Fifty per cent. of the population are Hindus and 49 per cent. Musalmāns; the remaining 1 per cent. includes 2,416 Christians, of whom 30,993 are natives, 12,842 Animists, 1,005 Buddhists, 2,245 Jains and 1,938 Brahmos. The area of the Division, which is known as Central Bengal, corresponds approximately to the old kingdom of Banga or Samātata, and subsequently to Ballal Sen's division of Bāgri (or Bāgdi). The Division is bounded on the west by the Bhāgirathi river and on the east by the Madhumati, and forms the western extremity of the Ganges delta. Its northern Districts have been gradually raised above flood-level, and the great rivers, which formerly flowed through them, have shrunk to insignificance, and no longer fulfil their old functions of depositing silt and supplying

good drinking water. Their head-waters have been silted up and their channels are often so high that they are no longer able to carry off the drainage of the surrounding country, which has thus become far less healthy and fertile than it was formerly. The District of Khulnā is an exception to these conditions and still forms part of the true delta. Along the seacoast in the south of the 24-Parganas and the Khulnā Districts, the SUNDARBANS extend over an area of 5,629 square miles. This tract is a region of low-lying islands intersected by a network of rivers and cross channels. In the north it is being gradually reclaimed for cultivation, while in the south it is covered by valuable forests, and on the seaboard the process of land-making is still going on. Central Bengal possesses few distinctive ethnical features, but its southern portion is the main habitat of the Pods, who are closely allied to the Chandāls, and who with them are probably the descendants of the first of the Mongolian invaders from the north-east. The Kaibaritas and Bāgdis have overflowed from West Bengal and the Chandāls from the east.

The Division contains 46 towns and 20,496 villages. The urban population forms 16 per cent. of the whole; the greater part of it is found in Calcutta and in its great industrial suburbs on the banks of the Hooghly river. The principal industries in these towns are the manufacture of gunny-bags, the baling of jute<sup>+</sup>, export, paper making and cotton spinning. Murshidābād District is one of the seats of the silk industry. The largest towns are, CALCUTTA (847,796), with its suburbs COSSIMPORE-CHITPUR (40,750), MANIKTALA (32,387), GARDEN REACH (28,211), SOUTH SUBURBS (26,374) and BARANAGAR (25,432); SANTIPUR (26,898), KRISHNAGAR (24,547), BIRHAMPORE (24,397), NAIHATI (23,753) and BHATTARA (21,540). Among its other towns may be mentioned NANADWIP, an ancient capital of the Sen kings of Bengal, and MURSHIDABAD for many years the seat of the Muhammadar Nawābs. The early history of Calcutta is intimately associated with the beginning of British rule in India.

Bound-  
aries,  
configura-  
tion and  
river  
system.

24-Parganas.—District in the Presidency Division of Bengal lying between 21° 31' and 22° 57' N., and 88° 2' and 89° 6' E. with an area of 4,844 square miles, including 2,941 square miles in the Sunderbans. The District derived its name from the number of fiscal divisions (*parganas*) comprised in the "zamindār of Calcutta," which was ceded to the East India Company in 1757, by Mir Jafar, the Nawāb Nāzim of Bengal. It extends in a rectangular shape, some 50 miles in breadth, along the east bank of the Hooghly river from the Bāgher *Khal*, 25 miles north of Calcutta, southwards to the sea. It is bounded on the north by the Districts of Nadiā and Jessore; on the east by Khulnā; on the west by the Hooghly river; and on the south by the Bay of Bengal. Calcutta covers an area of 32 square miles and is not

included in the District, though the Collector of the 24-Parganas is Collector of land revenue in Calcutta and exercises magisterial functions over the suburbs.

The District occupies the south-west corner of the Gangetic delta, and is divided into two tracts of very different characteristics by the boundary of the Sundarbans, which runs diagonally north-eastwards from a point on the western boundary near the head of Sagar Island and cuts the eastern boundary in the latitude of Calcutta. South of this line lie the SUNDARBANS, a half-formed deltaic tract occupying three-fifths of the District, cut up by a net-work of tidal channels into innumerable islets, the more northerly of which are embanked and grow rich crops of rice, while a fringe along the coast is covered with mangrove scrub and forest. The northern tract is characteristic of the upper delta of Central Bengal, a land of dead and dying rivers, whose beds are out of reach of the scour of the tides, and of great rice swamps, which will never now be filled, because the rivers which should perform this office are locked into their channels by the high banks of silt which they have deposited.

Industrial activity is concentrated in a narrow strip of foreshore along the bank of the Hooghly river, extending from Budge-Budge a few miles below Calcutta to the northern limits of the District. This river frontage is densely populated, and almost every yard of it is occupied either by jute mills or by crowded bazars. Behind this strip the level drops, the drainage is obstructed, and the country is unhealthy and decadent until the eastern limits of the District are approached. Here the Jamunā river causes another rise in the surface, and this tract closely resembles Eastern Bengal and is inhabited by sturdy Muhammadans who raise abundant sugarcane and jute crops. In the north, the monotonous level of the rice swamps is broken only by the clumps of palms and fruit trees in which the village hamlets nestle. The broad reaches of the Hooghly are alive with traffic from the lumbering barge to the swift dinghy and noisy steam launch, while the river banks present a diversified panorama of mill chimneys and brick factories, interspersed with Hindu temples and the gardens of country houses.

The river system is derived from the Ganges and its distributaries, each river forming the centre of a minor system of interlacing distributaries of its own. Many of these change their names at different parts of their course, re-enter their parent channels, and then break away again or temporarily combine with other rivers until they reach their final stage as estuaries as they near the sea. The principal rivers are the Hooghly, Bidyadhari, Pasi and JAMUNA, all navigable by the largest native boats throughout the year, besides the great estuaries in the Sundarbans.

These arms of the sea, proceeding from east to west, are the Raimangal, Mátla, Jámira and the Hooghly, or Burhá Mantreswar as the mouth is locally called. The original course of the Hooghly was identical with the present Tolly's Nullah as far as Gariyá about 8 miles south of Calcutta, from which point it ran to the sea in a south-easterly direction. The old channel, which is still traceable for a considerable distance, has long ago dried up, and the bed now consists of a series of shallow pools. Many large Hindu villages are situated on the banks of the old stream, which is called the Ádi or original Gangá. The Bidyádhari is a tidal river which, after a circuitous course through the south-west of the District, flows into the Mátla estuary at CANNING. The Píali is a cross-stream from the Bidyádhari to the Mátla. The JAMUNA flows across the north-east corner of the District and forms part of the eastern boundary. The so-called Salt Water Lake is a low basin, east of Calcutta, which is slowly filling with silt deposited by tidal channels from the Bidyádhari river. The Balli swamp in the north-east of the District is being gradually drained and reclaimed.

**Geology.** The surface is covered by recent alluvium, consisting of sandy clay and sand along the course of the rivers, and fine silt consolidating into clay in the other parts of the river plain.

**Botany.** The stretches of low-lying land under rice cultivation afford a foot-hold for numerous marsh species, while the pond and ditches are filled with submerged and floating water-plants. Remarkable among these on account of its presence in Europe on the one hand and Australia on the other, is the floating *Drosera Aldrovanda*. The edges of sluggish creeks are lined with large sedges and bulrushes, and the banks of rivers have a hedge-like shrub jungle. The sides of embankments and village sites, where not occupied by habitations, are densely covered with village shrubberies of semi-spontaneous species, often interspersed with clumps of planted bamboos and groves of *Arcaea*, *Moringa*, *Mangifera*, and *Anona*. A very large proportion of the grasses and weeds have been inadvertently introduced by human agency and include European, Asiatic and American species.

**Fauna.** The Sunderbans contain many deer and tiger, and the estuaries swarm with alligators and with the Gangoitic crocodile. In the north, leopards are occasionally met with, and there are a few wild hogs.

**Climate and temperature.** The mean temperature for the year is 78°, varying from 66° in January to 86° in May. The highest mean maximum is 96° in April. The highest temperature recorded was 108° in 1901. Humidity is high throughout the year and rises to 90 per cent. in July. The normal rainfall for the year is 62 inches, of which 5.5 inches fall in May, 10.6 in June, 12.5 in July, 13.2 in August, 9.1 in September and 5.3 in October. Less than 2 inches fall in each of the remaining months.

The cyclone of October 1864 did immense damage in the south of the District. A storm-wave 11 feet high rushed over the Diamond Harbour sub-division, and the loss of life was estimated at 12,000. The earthquake of June 1897 caused serious injury to masonry buildings in all parts of the District. The floods of September 1900 caused wide-spread damage to the rice crops, especially in the ill-drained area between Calcutta and Diamond Harbour.

In the dawn of history the country south of the Padmā History. between the Bhāgirathi and the old course of the Brahmaputra was known as Vanga or Banga, a name since given to the whole Province. Its people are described in the Raghubansa as living in boats and as growing transplanted rice. The 24-Parganas lay to the extreme south of this tract and probably did not emerge from the waters of the Bay before the seventh century. Towards the end of the tenth century this country passed along with the rest of Bengal proper under the sway of the Sen dynasty, and in 1203 it was overrun by the Afghāns under Muhammad-i-Bakhtyār Khilji. Nothing definite, however, is known of the District till 1495, when a Bengal poem mentions several still well-known river-side villages, including Calcutta, extending along the Adi Gangā river from Bhātpāra to Bāruipur.

In the 16th century the District formed part of the sarkār || or division of Sātgaon, which embraced also portions of the present Hooghly and Nadia Districts. Sātgaon on the Saraswatī, near the modern Hooghly, was at that time a great emporium of trade, but when the Portuguese began to frequent the Hooghly river, about 1530, their ships could not sail with safety above Garden Reach, and their goods were sent up to Sātgaon in small boats. As the Saraswatī silted up, Sātgaon lost its importance, and in the middle of the 16th century native traders came and settled at Gobindpur, the site of the present Fort William in Calcutta. The Portuguese also established a mart at Sūtānūti, the heart of modern Calcutta. A century later the English, who had meanwhile established a factory at Hooghly, were compelled to retire to Sūtānūti, but it was not until 1690 that the foundations of the present Calcutta were definitely laid by Job Charnock. The rebellion of Subha Singh, in 1696, gave the opportunity for fortifying the town, and it became thenceforth the stronghold of British influence in Bengal.

After the battle of Plassey in 1757, the Nawāb Nāzim of Bengal, Mir Jafar, ceded to the East India Company a tract of country which lay principally to the south of Calcutta and comprised about 882 square miles known as the zamindāri of Calcutta, or the 24-Parganas zamindāri. Under this grant the Company acquired the rights of a zamindār, and in the following year they obtained, from the emperor's chief revenue officer, a *durāni*



*sanad*, which particularized the land held by them and fixed the assessment at Rs. 2,22,958. In 1759 the emperor confirmed the grant by a *farmān* which gave the Company a perpetual heritable jurisdiction over the land. Meanwhile, by a deed of gift executed in 1759, Lord Olive had been presented, as a reward for services rendered by him to the Delhi emperor, with the revenue of the District due from the Company, and this sum continued to be paid to him till his death in 1774, when, by a deed sanctioned by the emperor, the whole proprietary right in the land and revenues reverted to the Company.

The BARRACKPORE Cantonment, 15 miles north of Calcutta, played a part in two mutinies. In 1824 the 47th Regiment refused to start for Burma, fearing that they would be compelled to proceed by sea. European troops and artillery were marched from Calcutta, and the gunners opened fire upon the mutinous regiment, which broke and fled. Many of the mutineers were shot or hanged, and the regiment was disbanded. It was at Barrackpore that the first sparks of the Mutiny of 1857 were kindled. The story of Mangal Pāndō's outbreak and of the disbandment of the 24th Regiment is too well known to need repetition.

The rebellion of Titu Miān is not so well known. This man belonged to the Wahābi sect of Muhammadan fanatics, and was excited to rebellion in 1831 by a beard-tax imposed by Hindu land-holders. He collected a force of insurgents, 3,000 strong, and cut to pieces a detachment of Calcutta militia which was sent against him. The Magistrate collected re-inforcements, but they were driven off the field. Eventually the insurgents were defeated by a force of regulars, and their stockade was taken by assault.

With these exceptions, the history of the District since its cession in 1757 has been uneventful, and is principally a record of constant boundary changes. These were all in the direction of increase until 1882, by which date the area had grown to 5,593 square miles. The transfer of the Sātkhira sub-division to Khulnā in that year reduced the District to its present proportions.

The  
people.

The population of the present area increased from 1,581,448 in 1872 to 1,690,771 in 1881, to 1,891,288 in 1891 and to 2,078,355 in 1901. The birth and death rates are much lower than the mean for the whole of Bengal; a great preponderance of males is the reason for the low birth-rate, and a low death-rate is a corollary to a low birth-rate. Fever is responsible for the greater part of the deaths, but the mortality due to cholera is also considerable. The banks of the Hooghly are wholesome enough, as a good supply of drinking water is obtained from the river, and the drainage passes easily to the low swamps to the eastward. The salt breezes from the Bay of Bengal prevent the growth of noxious undergrowth in the south, which is, however, liable to cholera owing to a

deficient water-supply. The most unhealthy tract is the depressed area in the north, which is water-logged owing to the silting up of the drainage channels, and mosquitoes breed freely in the stagnant pools which fester in all directions. The drinking water is obtained from tanks polluted by surface drainage, and all the conditions favourable to the spread of the "Nadia fever" are present.

The principal statistics of the census of 1901 are reproduced below:—

SUB-DIVISION.	Area in square miles.	Number of		Population.	Population per square mile.	Percentage of variation in population between 1891 and 1901.	Number of persons able to read and write.
		Towns.	Villages.				
Allpore	1,161	4	1,683	671,520	577	+11.6	77,301
Suburbs of Calcutta.	10	8	...	101,349	10,135	+15.9	17,433
Barrackpore*	100	11‡	163	200,311	1,026	+ 5.2	35,626
Basirhat	276	2	724	264,200	951	+ 7.2	18,605
Basirhat	1,823	3	820	372,187	191	+14.4	24,111
Diamond Harbour.	1,233	...	1,878	460,743	350	...	60,035
Sunderbanst	...	...	17	2,100	...	-64.2	100
DISTRICT TOTAL	4,844	25	6,089	2,078,330	429	+ 9.9	232,690

\* Barrackpore sub-division was formed out of parts of the head-quarters and Basirhat sub-divisions in 1904.

† Most of the population of the Sunderbans has been included in the figures for the head-quarters and Basirhat sub-divisions, within which the Sunderbans lie. There are a few road-cutters, etc., for whom separate census arrangements were made.

‡ Excluding Hallsahar, which was constituted a separate municipality in 1903.

No less than a fifth of the whole population is urban. COSSIPORE-CHITPUR, MANIKTALA, GARDEN REACH, SOUTH SUBURBS and TOLLYGUNGE are suburban towns, which for the most part belonged to the Calcutta municipality until 1889. The head-quarters are at ALIPORE, with the limits of Calcutta municipality. The other industrial towns are BARANAGAR (25,432) with KAMARHATI adjoining it, NAIHATI with HALISAHAR and BHATPARA adjoining it, TITAGARH, BUDGE-BUDGE and GARULIA. BUDGE-BUDGE is south of Calcutta, but the remaining towns form, with South BARRACKPORE, North BARRACKPORE and PANIHATI, an almost unbroken line of river frontage northwards from Calcutta to near the confines of the District. North and South DUM-DUM include the Dum-Dum cantonment and its neighbourhood, and BASIRHAT and BARASAT are sub-divisional head-quarters.

The growth of the population has not been uniform throughout the District. The north-central thāns are stationary or decadent owing to defective drainage and malarial conditions, which are driving the inhabitants into Calcutta. On the other hand, a phenomenal expansion has taken place in the industrial tract on

the bank of the Hooghly river, while the rapid progress of reclamation has attracted numerous settlers to the Sundarbans. During the last decade the riparian population has grown by 12 per cent., and the Sundarban population by no less than 24 per cent.; on the other hand the northern and central thānas have remained stationary. The population is very dense along the Hooghly to the north of Calcutta; but the density for the whole District is low owing to the inclusion of the sparsely inhabited Sundarbans, which cover 2,941 square miles, or three-fifths of its area.

The main tide of migration sets from the eastern Districts of the United Provinces and from Bihār to the mills on the banks of the Hooghly. A large number of labourers cross annually from Midnapore to Diamond Harbour and are employed as harvesters or in repairing embankments and clearing jungle in the Sundarbans. A number of immigrants from Chetā Nāgpur have also settled in the Sundarbans where they are known as Bunās. No less than 10 per cent. of the population enumerated in 1901 were born outside the District, and there were more than two males for every female immigrant. As a consequence, there are only 902 females for every 1,000 males of the population. Bengali is the language spoken by the natives of the District. Hindus number 1,310,161 or 63 per cent. of the population and Musalmāns 753,260 or 36 per cent.; the latter are most numerous in the north-east, where they actually outnumber the Hindus. Christians (14,000) are more numerous than in any other Bengal District except Rānchī, and Europeans (3,000) than in any other District.

Their  
castes and  
occupa-  
tions.

The castes most largely represented are aboriginal. The Pōds (295,000) are numerically the most important and are divided into two classes, the Padma Rāj, or Vrātya Kshattriya, living by cultivation and regarding themselves as superior to the fishing Pōds. Similar in rank and origin are the Kaibarttas (207,000), who again claim to be divided into a higher class known as the Chāsi or Māhisya, and a lower the Jaliyā. Bāgdis (94,000) are another non-Aryan community. Among the Aryan castes, Brāhmans (77,000), Ahirs (64,000) and Kāyasths (34,000) are the most numerous. Of the remainder Tiyaṛs (fishermen), Nāpits (barbers), Muchis (leather dressers) and Sadgops, a cultivating caste, are also well represented. The Kaorās (63,000) are a low caste of criminal predilections, who largely man the ranks of the village watch. Nearly all the Musalmāns are Shaikhs (574,000) or *Ajlāf* (122,000). These with the functional castes, e.g., Jelāhās (18,000), are probably descendants of converts, as distinguished from the immigrant Pathāns (14,000) and Saiyids (8,000). Out of every 100 persons 62 are dependent on agriculture, 18 on industry and 1 on commerce, while 2 belong to the professional classes.

Of the 14,000 Christians 11,000 are natives of India; of these 4,000 belong to the Anglican Communion, 2,800 are Roman Catholics, and the remainder are Baptists, Congregationalists or Methodists. Missionary effort dates from the beginning of the 19th century and has met with most success among the aboriginal castes in the south of the District. A large number of sects and denominations are at work. They have several masonry Churches, and their educational work is specially important. The Church of England is represented by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel and the Church Missionary Society. The former commenced work in 1823. Both are engaged in pastoral and educational work, and, under the auspices of the former Society, the Clergy Sisters maintain 30 girls' schools in the Sundarbans. The London Missionary Society maintains 2 high schools at Bhawānipur, and a first-grade college as well as elementary schools. The Baptist Missionary Society, the Wesleyan Mission, the American Methodist Church, the Women's Union Missionary Society and the Church of Scotland also carry on important missionary and educational work. The Roman Catholic Church conducts missionary and educational work in the Sundarbans.

The surface has been formed by recent alluvial deposits, and, with the exception of strips of high land along the banks of the rivers, the whole country is low and swampy and tends to become water-logged whenever the rainfall is in excess. This is specially the case with the great basin shut in between the Diamond Harbour Railway and the Hooghly embankments, as well as the similar tract east of the Eastern Bengal State Railway and the Balli Bil. In these cases the drainage channels are inadequate to remove any excessive rainfall.

The salient agricultural statistics for 1903-04 are shown below, areas being in square miles :—

SUB-DIVISION.	Total.	Cultivated.	Culturable waste.	Forests.
Alipore ...	1,164	634	167	317
Suburbs of Calcutta ...	10	5	2	...
Barrackpore ...	190	132	27	...
Bārasat ...	275	193	39	...
Basirhat ...	1,922	836	275	1,140
Diamond Harbour ...	1,253	383	154	301
<b>TOTAL ...</b>	<b>4,544</b>	<b>1,663</b>	<b>694</b>	<b>1,763</b>

The only crops of real importance are rice and jute, the former occupying 1,517 and the latter 125 square miles. The winter rice crop, which accounts for nearly four-fifths of the

total cultivated area, is usually transplanted. Pulses are largely grown in the winter, and sugarcane occupies a considerable area in the north-east.

Improve-  
ments in  
agricul-  
tural  
practice.

Cultivation is spreading very rapidly in the Sunderbans, and all over the District the swamps are being gradually drained and reclaimed. Under the Land Improvement Loans Act money, is occasionally borrowed for the construction of embankments in the Sunderbans, and, after the floods of 1900, about Rs. 21,000 was lent to the sufferers to enable them to purchase cattle and seed-grain.

Cattle.

The cattle belong to the degenerate breeds common in Lower Bengal. They are deteriorating owing to the cultivation of pasturo lands and to the abandonment of the practice of dedicating bulls, which are no longer allowed to breed unmolested, but are sold in the towns for cart-work. Diminutive goats are numerous, but ponies, sheep and buffaloes are scarce. Important fairs are held at Sagar Island in January and at Harva at the end of February. In November the Mārwaris hold a gathering at the Pinjrapol, 15 miles north of Calcutta, where they maintain an asylum for broken-down cattle. A veterinary college is established at Belgachia.

Irrigation.

Water from tanks and road-side ditches is employed to a trivial extent in irrigating sugarcane and garden crops, but as cultivation suffers far more frequently from too much than from too little water, artificial irrigation is but little used.

Forests.

A tract on the southern face of the Sunderbans forms a Protected forest, but cultivation is rapidly encroaching upon it, and no less than 448 square miles were disforested during the decade ending in 1903-04, leaving 1,758 square miles as the present area. The principal timber is *garān* (*Ceriops andoltian*), *geod* (*Excoecaria agallocha*) and *keorā* (*Sonneratia ap-tala*), while among minor forest produce may be reckoned *golpāta* (*Nipa fruticans*), *hantal* (*Phanias paludosa*), reeds, honey, wax, and shells used for making lime. The forest receipts in 1903-04 amounted to Rs. 50,000, and the expenditure was Rs. 18,000. The receipts on account of the produce of leased lands amounted to Rs. 23,000.

Arts and  
manufac-  
tures.

No hand industries of any importance are carried on. Imitation looks are made at Nātāgarh, and brushes and combs, cheap shoes and common embroidery are manufactured. A little cotton is woven, and knives, utensils and mats are made. Small sugar factories exist in the north of the District, but the industry is declining. Tanneries and soap manufacture exhaust the list of local industries.

Factory industries are important, as the proximity of the Port of Calcutta and the many means of communication with the interior, both by rail and river, afford special facilities to manufacture on the banks of the Hooghly. In 1903 as many as

75 out of the 259 factories in Bengal were situated in the 24-Parganas, and at the end of 1904 there were 79 factories at work employing 124,000 hands. The list of industries is a long one, as it includes jute pressing and weaving, cotton spinning, paper making, sugar refining, ship building, the manufacture by Government of arms and ammunition, of uniforms for the troops and of telegraph stores, soap making, iron founding, leather tanning, rope spinning, shellac manufacture, bone grinding, oil pressing, brick making and the refinement of saltpetre. Petroleum is also stored in bulk and subsequently filled in tins at Budge-Budge.

The operatives are largely up-country men, and they are for the most part miserably housed in crowded hovels; but factory owners have done much of late years to ameliorate the conditions of their life by improving the water-supply and by constructing wholesome dwellings for them.

By far the most important industries are the weaving of jute into gunny bags and the pressing of the raw product for export. The manufacture of gunnies has been largely diverted of late years from Dundee to the banks of the Hooghly, and nearly one-third of the jute crop is now manufactured in Bengal. The first start was made about forty years ago, but most of the mills have been opened since 1880. In 1904 the District contained 24 mills employing 84,000 hands; they possessed nearly 12,000 looms and their outturn was valued at nearly 6 crores or 4 million sterling. The jute presses are found in the northern suburbs. The industry started in 1873, and in 1904 as many as 11 presses were at work which employed over 8,000 hands. There are 5 cotton mills which manufacture cotton yarn or twist for the local and China markets. The industry dates from 1875 and employs 5,000 operatives; the outturn in 1901 was 5,700 tons of yarn valued at nearly 33 lakhs.

Two paper mills, employing 2,000 hands, had in 1903-04 an outturn of 8,778 tons, valued at nearly 27 lakhs; and there are also 2 lac factories with 500 operatives. The remaining industries are of minor importance; they include a soap factory, 4 iron works, 2 ice factories, 2 oil mills, 1 silk factory, 1 rice mill, 1 sugar factory and 4 saltpetre refineries. Besides these, there is a small arms and ammunition factory at Dum-Dum, a foundry and shell factory at Cossipore and a rifle factory at Ichāpur.

The only articles imported by rail in any quantity are coal from Rāniganj and the Mānbhūm District, jute from East and North Bengal, and linseed from Calcutta and Bihār; the coal and jute go to the mills. Raw cotton is obtained by the mills from Berār and the Central Provinces, rice from Backergunge, Burdwan and Khulnā, and paddy from Bīrbhūm and Bogra. Some gram and pulses are imported from Nadiā and Jessore, and a little sugar comes from the latter District. Imported kerosene oil

is sent up-country from Budge-Budge, a certain amount of rice is exported to Calcutta, and gunny bags manufactured in the mills, are despatched to Calcutta and up-country. The water communications are excellent and carry an extensive trade in country produce. A considerable export takes place by road into Calcutta of animals, vegetables, etc., as well as of straw, bricks, bamboos and other local products and manufactures.

**Railways.**

The Eastern Bengal State Railway runs from Calcutta to the northern boundary of the District, and the central section of that railway follows a north-easterly course through Bārāsāt and Hābra towards Jessore. Other lines run from Calcutta to Budge-Budge, Diamond Harbour and Port Canning; and a light railway from Basirhāt to Bārāsāt has recently been opened. The total length of the railways is about 158 miles.

**Roads.**

Including 993 miles of village roads, the District contains 1,344 miles of unmetalled and 241 miles of metalled roads maintained by the District board. The Grand Trunk Road runs north from Calcutta along the river bank to Paltā (14 miles), where the Hooghly is crossed by a ferry and the road passes to the west bank of the river. The Plassey road continues north along the east bank to the boundary of the District. The Jessore road passes through Dum-Dum and Bārāsāt and maintains a north-easterly direction to the District boundary. The roads south of Calcutta are the Diamond Harbour road, the Orissa Trunk Road which crosses the Hooghly by a ferry at Achipur, and the Bistupur road which runs due south, through Bāruipur, for 29 miles. The chief east and west cross-roads are the Tāki road from Bārāsāt to Basirhāt, along which a light railway with 8 stations has been laid, and the continuation of this road westwards to Barrackpore. The Calcutta Electric Tramways extend in the 24 Parganas District for half a mile along the Jessore road to Belgāchia, and for the same distance southwards to Tollygunge.

**Electric tramways.****Water communications.**

THE CALCUTTA AND EASTERN CANALS form the waterway by which the rice of Eastern Bengal is poured into Calcutta and have their terminus at Dhāpa, 5 miles east of Fort William. The inception of the system is due to Major Tolly, who in 1777 canalized an old bed of the Ganges, called after him TOLLY'S NULLAH, which connects Kidderpore with the Bidyādhari river. There are now three great routes between Calcutta and the chief rice-growing Districts. The one generally used is the inner Sundarbans passage, which starting from Dhāpa, follows the Boliāghāta and Bhāngār canals and thence passes by the Sibsa river to Khulnā. The outer Sundarbans passage, which is used by heavily-laden boats, runs from Sāmukpotā, 20 miles south-east of Calcutta, along the Bidyādhari river to Canning and then strikes to the north-east; it is connected with the south of Calcutta by Tolly's Nullah and with the north of that city by

the Beliaghata and Circular Canals. The third route is the steamer route to Goalundo and Chāndpur, which proceeds down the Hooghly to Mud Point, and thence turns eastwards by the Bārātala Creek between Sagar Island and the mainland, and works its way through various creeks and channels to Barisal. Passenger steamers ply on the Hooghly from Calcutta to Naihati, from Calcutta to Kākdwip on the mainland opposite Sagar Island, and from Diamond Harbour to Tongrá. Steamers also traverse the Ichāmati and Jamunā rivers from Tāki to Chārgahāt, 4 miles from Gobardānga. Much of the traffic is carried on by large boats from the eastern Districts. The local boat is called *pānsi*, but on the narrow and shallow waterways most of the work is done with dug-outs known as *dongā* or *sālī*.

There are 53 ferries under the control of the District board, the most important being the Uttarbhāg ferry across the Piāli river, the Nājipur ferry across the creek at Diamond Harbour, and the Budgo-Budgo and Oharāmādāri ferries across the Hooghly. Other ferries on the Hooghly river belong either to the Government or to the riparian municipalities.

For administrative purposes the District is divided into 5 sub-District divisions with head-quarters at ALIPORE, BARRACKPORE, BARASAT, BASIRHAT and DIAMOND HARBOUR. At Alipore are stationed the Magistrate-Collector, a Joint Magistrate, an Assistant Magistrate and 9 Deputy Magistrate-Collectors. The suburbs of Calcutta are policed by the Calcutta force, but cases are tried at police courts at Alipore and Sealdah by 2 Deputy Magistrates subordinate to the District Magistrate of the 24-Parganas. The Barrackpore sub-division is in charge of a member of the covenanted civil service, and each of the other sub-divisions of a Deputy Magistrate-Collector, the sub-divisional officer at Basirhat being assisted by one sub-deputy collector and at Diamond Harbour by 2 sub-deputy collectors. The Collector of the 24-Parganas is *ex-officio* Collector of land revenue in Calcutta, but the revenue is collected by an officer styled the Deputy Collector of land revenue, who is also the Collector of stamp revenue and Superintendent of excise revenue in Calcutta and in so much of the 24-Parganas District as is under the jurisdiction of the Calcutta police; in these functions he is independent of the Collector of the 24-Parganas. An Assistant Inspector-General of Government Railway Police is stationed at Sealdah.

The civil courts are those of the District and Sessions Judge, Civil and 2 Additional District and Sessions Judges, of whom one is also criminal Additional Judge of Hooghly and the other is a special land acquisition judge, 4 Sub-Judges at Alipore, of whom 2 are permanent and 2 are temporary, a Small Cause Court Judge at Sealdah and 15 Munsifs, of whom 3 are stationed at Alipore, 4 at Diamond Harbour and 2 each at Sealdah, Barasat,



Basirhat and Baraipur. For criminal work, in addition to the courts of the Judge, Additional Judge, the District Magistrate and the stipendiary magistrates, a Cantonment Magistrate deals with cases in the Baranagore and Dum-Dum cantonments and the Station Staff Officer with those in Alipore. The large number of dacoities is a feature of the criminal administration of the District, while the Diamond Harbour sub-division is notorious for the number of wreckers and cattle thieves it contains.

Land  
revenue

The current demand for land revenue in 1903-04 was 16.88 lakhs payable by 2,012 estates, of which 1,696 with a demand of 12.64 lakhs were permanently settled, and 302 paying Rs. 1,07,000 were temporarily settled, the remainder being held direct by Government. The District contains a large area managed direct by Government, and the whole of the Sundarbans is so dealt with. The most interesting estate is PANCHANNAGRAM, which comprises most of the suburbs of Calcutta. It is bounded on the north by the Baranagar estate, which was acquired by a treaty from the Dutch in 1795. The Sâhibân Bâgicha is a Government estate formed in 1790 of garden houses occupied by Europeans.

Rents are high. Rice lands in the head-quarters and Bârâsat sub-divisions are rented at from Rs. 6 to Rs. 12 an acre, but lower rates prevail in the other two sub-divisions. Homestead and sugarcane lands fetch from Rs. 10 to Rs. 20 an acre. The gross rental of the District, as ascertained from the road and public works cess valuation rolls, is 72.51 lakhs, or more than four times the land revenue. The cultivated area in 1903-04 was estimated at 1,664 square miles, and the incidence of the gross valuation per acre is therefore Rs. 6.13, of which only R. 1.9 reaches the treasury. These figures are much above those for Bengal as a whole, where the average rental is only Rs. 3.1 and the revenue only 13 annas per cultivated acre. In the Government estates in Diamond Harbour the average size of a holding varies from 2½ to 8 acres. The general average for the District is probably from 3 to 4 acres, but in the Sundarbans holdings are considerably larger.

The following table shows the collections of land revenue and of total revenue, under the principal heads, in thousands of rupees:—

	1880-81.*	1890-91.	1900-01.	1903-04.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Land revenue ... ..	16.02	16.02	16.13	16.61
Total revenue ... ..	27.89	29.89	32.60	36.24

\* The District in 1880-81 included the Bakshira sub-division, which was subsequently transferred to Khulna.

The District contains 26 municipalities, and their inspection and control occupy much of the District Officer's time and energies. Outside municipal areas, local affairs are managed by a District board with sub-divisional local boards and three village unions at Basudebpur, Itinda and Jadurhātī. The income of the District board in 1903-04 was Rs. 2,89,000, including Rs. 1,59,000 derived from rates, and the expenditure was Rs. 2,92,000, of which Rs. 1,78,000 was spent on civil works and Rs. 60,000 on education. The District board has guaranteed interest at the rate of 4 per cent. up to a maximum of Rs. 38,000 per annum on the light railway from Bārsant to Basirhāt. Local and municipal Government.

The Public Works department maintains 222 miles of embankments, of which 216 miles were constructed, and are kept in repair, at Government expense. The main embankment has a total length of 191 miles and runs southwards along the left bank of the Hooghly river from Akra a few miles below Calcutta to Rāngāfala near the head of Sagar Island; thence it branches east and north to Sāmukpotā, and terminates at Gariyā 8 miles south of Calcutta. This embankment protects a tract of 716 square miles in the south-west of the District from inundation by the Hooghly and other rivers. Drainage is provided for by numerous sluices of which 13 are on a large scale. The Chariāl works drain a large area near Budge-Budge, and the Satpukur, Kālpi and Tengrahichī works a considerable tract in the south of the Diamond Harbour sub-division, while the Balli Bil in the north-east of the District is drained by a channel with a sluice at Tetuliā; large schemes have also been projected for draining the area protected by the embankments. A light-house is situated on Sagar Island. Public Works.

The suburbs of Calcutta are policed by a force under the Police and orders of the Commissioner of Police, Calcutta. His jurisdiction embraces the Cossipore-Chitpur, Māniktala and part of the Garden Reach municipal areas, as well as the fringe east and south of the Lower Circular Road and Tolly's Nullah, which is within the Calcutta municipality but under the authority of the Magistrate of the 24-Parganas. The suburbs are divided into two divisions, the northern and southern, each under a Superintendent. The force consisted in 1903, in addition to the Superintendents, of 68 officers, 633 constables and 7 boatmen.

Outside the suburbs the District contains 26 police-stations and 9 outposts, as well as 37 town outposts, 3 mill outposts, 3 cantonment outposts, and one boat-house. The town outposts are manned partly by police constables, and partly by town *chaukidārs*. The District Superintendent of Police is provided with a steam-launch, and 7 police boats patrol the waterways. The force consists of a District Superintendent, an Assistant Superintendent, 8 inspectors, 71 sub-inspectors (including one European), 127

head-constables, 1,019 constables and 148 town *chaukidars*. A special force of 15 head-constables is employed for 9 months in the dry season, to accompany the officers of the Salt department on searches. The rural police number 350 *daffadars* and 3,423 *chaukidars*, and the District is divided into 349 unions, each of which is manned by a *daffadar* and from 7 to 13 *chaukidars*.

The ALIPORE District and Central jail has accommodation for 1,837 prisoners, and a District jail at BARASAT for 130 prisoners; subsidiary jails at Diamond Harbour and Basirhat each hold 12 prisoners, while that at Barrackpore holds 14. A reformatory school at Alipore provides accommodation for 226 boys.

#### Education.

Education is more advanced than in most Bengal Districts. In 1901, 11·2 per cent. (20·2 males and 1·3 females) could read and write. The total number of pupils under instruction increased from 52,000 in 1883-84 to 68,138 in 1892-93 and 73,021 in 1900-01, while 79,860 boys and 7,727 girls were at school in 1903-04, being respectively 42·5 and 5·2 per cent. of the children of school-going age. The number of educational institutions, public and private, in that year was 1,953 including 125 secondary schools, 1,788 primary schools and 40 other special schools. The expenditure on education was 3·86 lakhs of which Rs. 52,000 was met from Provincial funds, Rs. 60,000 from District funds, Rs. 11,000 from municipal funds and 1·97 lakhs from fees.

#### Medical.

In 1903 the District contained 36 dispensaries, of which 12 had accommodation for 195 in-door patients. The cases of 184,000 out-patients and 3,404 in-patients were treated in 1903, and 12,017 operations were performed. The expenditure was Rs. 71,000, of which Rs. 12,000 was met by Government contributions, Rs. 20,000 from local, and Rs. 22,000 from municipal funds and Rs. 7,000 from subscriptions.

#### Vaccinations.

Vaccination is compulsory within municipal areas and voluntary elsewhere. In 1903-04 the number of persons successfully vaccinated was 62,000 representing 37 per thousand of the population.

[Sir W. W. Hunter, *Statistical Account of Bengal*, vol. i, 1875.]

Alipore Sub-division.—Head-quarters sub-division of the 24-Parganas District, Bengal, lying between 22° 8' and 22° 38' N., and 88° 7' and 88° 39' E., with an area of 1,164 square miles, of which 450 are included in the SUNDARBANS. The sub-division is a deltaic tract containing numerous marshes, and in the south there is a network of sluggish channels and backwaters. The population was 671,269 in 1901, compared with 600,274 in 1891, the density being 577 persons to the square mile. Those figures do not include the suburbs of Calcutta (see CALCUTTA, SUBURBS or). The sub-division contains 6 towns, SOUTH SUBURBS (population 26,374), TOLLYGUNGE (12,821), RAJFUR (10,713), BARUFUR (4,217), JAYNAGAR (8,810) and BUDGE-BUDGE (13,061), and 1,683

villages; its head-quarters are at ALIPORE within the Calcutta municipality.

**Calcutta, Suburbs of.**—A name given to the 3 suburban municipalities of COSSIPORE-CHITPUR (population 40,750), MANIKTALA (32,387) and GARDEN REACH (28,211), which are thus grouped as a sub-division of the 24-Parganas District, Bengal. The area of the sub-division was 10 square miles, and the population 101,348 in 1901, as compared with 87,508 in 1891, the density being 10,135 to the square mile. Cossipore-Chitpur is north and Maniktala north-east of Calcutta, while Garden Reach bounds the city on the south-west.

**Barrackpore Sub-division.**—North-western sub-division of the 24-Parganas District, Bengal, lying on the left bank of the Hooghly between  $22^{\circ} 35'$  and  $22^{\circ} 57' N.$ , and  $88^{\circ} 21'$  and  $88^{\circ} 31' E.$ , with an area of 190 square miles. The sub-division, which was formed in 1904 from portions of the Sadar and Bārasat sub-divisions, consists of a long narrow strip of riparian land and contains a number of low-lying swamps, but the parts along the banks of the Hooghly are higher and healthier. The population was 206,311 in 1901, the density being 1,086 persons to the square mile. The bank of the Hooghly north of Calcutta is lined with mills, which provide labour for a large industrial population. The sub-division contains 12 towns all lying within this tract, NAIBATI (population 13,604), HALISAHAR (10,149), BHATRARA (21,540), GARULIA (7,375), BARRACKPORE North (12,600) and South (19,307), TIFAGARIH (16,065), PANIHATI (11,178), KAMARIHATI (13,216), BARANAGAR (25,432) and DUM-DUM North (9,916) and South (10,904). The remainder of the inhabitants live in 163 villages. The head-quarters of the sub-division are at Barrackpore, historically important as the scene of the outbreak of two mutinies. Cantonments are situated within the North Dum-Dum and South Barrackpore municipalities, and a Government ammunition factory at Dum-Dum. Barrackpore also contains the suburban residence of the Viceroy.

**Bārasat Sub-division.**—Sub-division of the 24-Parganas District, Fongal, lying between  $22^{\circ} 38'$  and  $22^{\circ} 56' N.$ , and  $88^{\circ} 25'$  and  $88^{\circ} 47' E.$ , with an area of 275 square miles. The sub-division consists of a water-logged deltaic tract, which is very malarious, as many of the drainage channels are blocked, and there are numerous swamps and thick jungle. The population was 264,300 in 1901, the density being 961 persons to the square mile. It contains 2 towns, BARASAT (population 8,634), the head-quarters, and GOWARDANGA (5,865), and 724 villages. Bārasat was formerly a separate magisterial District in charge of a Joint Magistrature. In 1861 the Joint Magistracy was abolished, and Bārasat became one of the sub-divisions of the 24-Parganas. It is connected by a light railway 26 miles long with Basirhat.

**Basirhāt Sub-division.**—North-eastern sub-division of the 24-Parganas District, Bengal, lying between  $21^{\circ} 31'$  and  $22^{\circ} 55' N.$ , and  $88^{\circ} 33'$  and  $89^{\circ} 6' E.$ , with an area of 1,922 square miles, of which 1,584 are included in the **SUNDARBANS**. The northern part of the sub-division consists of a fertile alluvial tract, but to the south, where the delta is in a less advanced stage of growth, there is a network of tidal creeks winding through numerous islands and morasses. The population was 372,187 in 1901, compared with 347,138 in 1891, the density being 194 persons to the square mile. It contains 3 towns, **BASIRHAT** (population 17,001), its head-quarters, **BAIDYIA** (12,921) and **TAKI** (5,099), and 920 villages. It is connected by the Eastern Bengal State Railway with Calcutta and by a light railway with Bārasat.

**Diamond Harbour Sub-division.**—South-western sub-division of the 24-Parganas District, Bengal, lying between  $21^{\circ} 31'$  and  $22^{\circ} 21' N.$ , and  $88^{\circ} 2'$  and  $88^{\circ} 31' E.$ , with an area of 1,283 square miles, of which 907 are included in the **SUNDARBANS**. The southern part of the sub-division exhibits all the typical features of half-formed land through which the estuaries of the Ganges find their way to the sea. In the northern area the tracts along the banks of the Hooghly are salubrious owing to better drainage, the comparative absence of noxious undergrowth and the sea breeze which blows almost continuously during the south-west monsoon. Further east, the country is badly water-logged owing to defective drainage. The population was 460,748 in 1901, compared with 402,880 in 1891, the density being 359 persons to the square mile. It contains 1,575 villages, one of which, **DIAMOND HARBOUR**, is the head-quarters, but no towns. A railway, 37 miles long, connects Diamond Harbour with Calcutta.

Bound-  
aries and  
physical  
aspects.

**Sundarbans.**—A vast tract of forest and swamp extending for about 170 miles along the sea face of the Bay of Bengal from the estuary of the Hooghly to that of the Meghna and running inland to a distance of from 60 to 80 miles. The most probable meaning of the name is the "Forest of *sundri*." (*Heritiera littoralis*), this being the characteristic tree found there. The tract lies between  $21^{\circ} 31'$  and  $22^{\circ} 38' N.$ , and  $88^{\circ} 5'$  and  $90^{\circ} 28' E.$ , with an area of 6,526 square miles, of which 2,941 lie in the 24-Parganas District, 2,688 in Khulnā and 897 in Backergunge.

The Sundarbans forms the lower part of the Ganges delta and is intersected from north to south by the estuaries of that river, the most important, proceeding from west to east, being the **HOOGHLY**, **Mātla**, **Raimangal**, **Mālanohā**, **BARINGHATA**, **Rabnābād**, and **MEGHNA**. The tract through which they flow is one vast alluvial plain, where the process of land-making has not yet ceased and where morasses and swamps, now gradually filling up, abound. The rivers are connected with each other by an intricate series of branches, and the latter in their turn by

innumerable smaller channels; so that the whole tract is a tangled not-work of streams, rivers, and water-courses enclosing a large number of islands of various shapes and sizes. Cultivation is confined to a fringe of reclaimed land situated along the northern boundary, except in Backorgungo, where some of the clearings extend almost down to the sea.

The flat swampy islands are covered with dense forest, the most Botany. plentiful and important species being the *sundri*, which thrives most where the water in the channels is least brackish. Towards the north the forests contain a rather dense undergrowth, but elsewhere this is very scanty. In the north some mangroves, chiefly *Xandelia* and *Bruguiera*, are found scattered along the river banks; further south, as the influence of the tides increases, they become more numerous, *Ceriops* and *Rhizophora* now appearing with the others, till at length the riparian vegetation is altogether mangrove. By this time too, *sundri* and its associates largely disappear from the interior forests, which are now mainly composed of *geon* (*Excoecaria agallocha*). Nearer the sea this in turn gives way to mangroves. This pure mangrove forest sometimes extends into the tides, but at other times it is separated from the waves along the sea face by a line of low sand dunes, on which reappear some of the swamp forest species, accompanied however by a few plants characteristic of other Asiatic shores, such as *Erythrina indica*, *Thespesia populnea*, *Ficus Rumphii* and others for which the conditions in the swampy islands of the interior seem to be unsuited.

The wild animals are tigers, which cause much destruction, the Fauna. rhinoceros (now nearly extinct), wild buffalo, wild hog, spotted deer (*Cervus axis*), barking deer (*Cervulus muntjac*) and hog-deer (*Cervus porcinus*). The rivers are infested with crocodiles which are dangerous to man and beast, and the cobra, python and many other varieties of snakes are found. In the cold weather, geese, duck and other game birds congregate in large numbers on the sand banks.

The average annual rainfall varies from about 82 inches in the west to over 200 inches in the east. Cyclones and storm-waves occur from time to time; the worst of the recent calamities of this nature was in 1870 when a great part of Backorgungo and the adjoining Districts was submerged, the depth of water in some places being over 10 feet. An account of this catastrophe is given in the article on BACKORGUNGO District. Rainfall and cyclones.

Nothing is known of the Sundarbans until about the middle History. of the 15th century when a Muhammadan adventurer, named Khān Jahān, or Khānja Ali, obtained a *jāgir* from the king of Gaur, and made extensive clearances near Bāgherhāt in Khulnā; he appears to have exercised all the rights of sovereignty until his death in 1459. A hundred years later, when Daud, the last

king of Bengal, rebelled against the emperor of Delhi, one of his Hindu counsellors obtained a Rāj in the Sundarbans, the capital of which, Iswariyūr, near the Kāliganj police-station in Khulnā, was called Yasohara and has given its name to the modern District of Jessore. His son, Pratāpāditya, was one of the twelve chiefs or Bhuīyās who held the south and east of Bengal, nominally as vassals of the emperor, but who were practically independent and were frequently at war with each other. He rebelled but, after some minor successes, was defeated and taken prisoner by Rājā Mān Singht, the leader of Akbar's armies in Bengal from 1589 to 1606.

It is believed that at one time the Sundarbans was far more extensively inhabited and cultivated than at present; and possibly this may have been due to the fact that the shifting of the main stream of the Ganges from the Bhāgirathi to the Padmā, by diminishing the supply of fresh water from the north, rendered the tract less fit for human habitation. Another cause of the depopulation of this tract may be found in the predatory incursions of Magh pirates and Portuguese buccanniers in the early part of the 18th century. It is said that in 1737 the people then inhabiting the Sundarbans deserted it in consequence of the devastated state of the country, and in Rennell's map of Lower Bengal (1772) the Backergunge Sundarbans is shown as depopulated by the Maghs. The most important remains are the tomb of Khān Juhān and the ruins of Shāt Gumbaz and Iswariyūr in the Bācherhāt sub-division of the Khulnā District, the temple of Jhāt Dad in the 24-Parganas Sundarbans and the Navaratna temple near Kāliganj police-station in Khulnā.

The  
people,

The bulk of the present inhabitants have come from the Districts immediately to the north of the Sundarbans, and consist chiefly of low-caste Hindus and Muhammadans, the Pods being the most numerous Hindu caste in the west and the Namāsūdras or Chaudāls towards the east. The Muhammadans, who are numerous in the east, belong mostly to the fanatical sect of Farāzis. In the Backergunge Sundarbans there are some 7,000 Maghs who came originally from the Arakan coast. Between the months of October and May crowds of wood-cutters from Backergunge, Khulnā, Faridpur, Calcutta and elsewhere come in boats and enter the forests for the purpose of cutting jungle. The coolies whom they employ to do jungle clearing, earth-work, etc., come from Hazāribāgh; Bīrbhūm, Mānbhūm, Bānkurā and Orissa. There are no villages or towns and the cultivators live scattered in little hamlets. Port Canning (see article on 24-PARGANAS) was at one time a municipality; but is now nearly deserted; MORRELGAJ in the Khulnā District is an important trading centre.

Agriculture.

The reclaimed tract to the north is entirely devoted to rice cultivation, and winter rice of a fine quality is grown there;

sugarcane and betel-nut are also cultivated in the tracts lying in the Khulna and Backergunge Districts. When land is cleared a *bāndh* or dyke is erected round it to keep out the salt water, and after two years the land becomes fit for cultivation; in normal years excellent crops are obtained, the outturn being usually about 20 maunds of rice per acre.

The Sundarbans contains 2,081 square miles of reserved forests Forests. in the Khulna District and 1,758 square miles of protected forests in the 24-Parganas. These are under the charge of a Deputy Conservator of Forests, aided by two assistants, whose head-quarters are at Khulna. The characteristics of the forests have been described above. They yield an immense quantity of timber, firewood and thatching materials, the minor produce consisting of *gohāta* (*Nipa fruticans*), *hantāl* (*Phoenix paludosa*), *nal*, honey, wax, and shells, which are burned for lime. The protected forests in the 24-Parganas are gradually being thrown open for cultivation, and 466 square miles were disforested between the years 1895 and 1903. The gross receipts from the Sundarbans forests in 1903-04 were 3·83 lakhs and the net revenue 2·71 lakhs.

At KALIGANJ in the Khulna District, country knives, buffalo-horn combs and black clay pottery are made. Manufactures, Com., merce. Communi-

Rice, betel-nuts and timber are exported to Calcutta.

Port Canning on the Matla river is connected with Calcutta by rail, but apart from this the only means of communication are afforded by the maze of tidal creeks and cross-channels by which the Sundarbans is traversed. These have been connected with one another and with Calcutta by a system of artificial canals (described under the CALCUTTA AND EASTERN CANALS), which enable Calcutta to tap the trade of the Ganges and Brahmaputra valleys. Regular lines of steamers for passengers and cargo use this route, while the smaller waterways give country boats of all sizes access to almost every part of the tract. Fraserganj at the mouth of the Hooghly has recently (1906) been selected as the site of a permanent wireless telegraphy station, the object of which is to establish communication with vessels in the Bay of Bengal.

The tracts included in the Sundarbans form an integral part of the Districts in which they are included. The whole of the revenue work except its collection was formerly in the hands of a special officer called the Commissioner in the Sundarbans, who exercised concurrent jurisdiction with the District Collectors, but this appointment has recently been abolished, and the entire revenue administration has been transferred to the Collectors concerned. Adminis- tration.

The earliest known attempt to bring the Sundarbans under cultivation was that of Khān Jahān. More recent attempts date from 1782, when Mr. Henckell, the first English Judge and Magistrate of Jessore, inaugurated the system of reclamation. Revenue



between Calcutta and the eastern Districts. Henckellganj, named after its founder by his native agent, appears as Hingulganj on the survey maps. This area was then a dense forest, and Mr. Henckell's first step was to clear the jungle; that done, the lands immediately around the clearances were gradually brought under cultivation. In 1784, when some little experience had been gained, Mr. Henckell submitted a scheme for the reclamation of the Sundarbans, which met with the approval of the Board of Revenue. Two objects were aimed at: to gain a revenue from lands then utterly unproductive, and to obtain a reserve of rice against seasons of drought, the crops in the Sundarbans being very little dependent upon rainfall. The principal measure adopted was to make grants of jungle land on favourable terms to people undertaking to cultivate them. In 1787 Mr. Henckell was appointed Superintendent of the operations for encouraging the reclamation of the Sundarbans, and already at that time 7,000 acres were under cultivation. In the following year, however, disputes arose with the zamindars who possessed lands adjoining the Sundarbans grants; and as the zamindars not only claimed a right to lands cultivated by the holders of these grants, but enforced their claims, the number of settlers began to fall off rapidly. Mr. Henckell expressed a conviction that if the boundaries of the lands held by the neighbouring zamindars were settled, the number of grants would at once increase, but the Board of Revenue had grown lukewarm about the whole scheme, and in 1790 it was practically abandoned. Several of the old grants forthwith relapsed into jungle.

In 1807, however, applications for grants began to come in again; and in 1816 the post of Commissioner in the Sundarbans was created by Regulation IX of that year in order to provide an agency for ascertaining how far neighbouring landholders had encroached beyond their permanently-settled lands and for resuming and settling such lands as revenue paying estates. From that time steady progress was made until, in 1872, the total area under cultivation was estimated at 1,087 square miles, of which two-thirds were reclaimed between 1830 and 1872. The damage done by the disastrous cyclone of 1870 led to the abandonment of many of the more exposed holdings, and in 1882 the total reclaimed area was returned at only 786 square miles. Since then rapid progress has been made, and in 1904 the total settled area had risen to 2,015 square miles.

Settlements of waste lands have, until recently, been made under the rules promulgated in 1879, the grants made being of two classes, viz., blocks of 200 acres or more leased for 40 years to large capitalists who are prepared to spend time and money in developing them; and plots not exceeding 200 acres leased to small capitalists for clearance by cultivators. Under

these rules one-fourth of the entire area leased was for over exempted from assessment, while the remaining three-fourths was held free of assessment for 10 years. On the expiry of the term of the original lease, the lot was open to resettlement for a period of 30 years. It was stipulated that one-eighth of the entire grant should be rendered fit for cultivation at the end of the fifth year, and this condition was enforced either by forfeiture of the grant or by the issue of a fresh lease at enhanced rates. Almost the whole of the area available for settlement in Khulnā has already been leased to capitalists; in Backergunge 479 out of 645 square miles have been settled, and in the 24-Parganas 1,223 out of 2,301 square miles. Experience has shown that this system has led to the growth of an undesirable class of land speculators and middlemen and to the grinding down of the actual cultivators by excessive rents. Landjobbers and speculators obtained leases for the purpose of reselling them; in order to recoup his initial outlay the original lessee often sublet to smaller lessees in return for cash payments; and the same process was carried on lower down the chain with the result that the land was eventually reclaimed and cultivated by peasant cultivators paying rack-rents. It was accordingly decided in 1904 to abandon this system and to introduce a system of ryotwari settlement, as an experimental measure, in the portions of the Sunderbans lying in the Districts of Backergunge and the 24-Parganas. Under this system small areas will be let out to actual cultivators, assistance being given them by Government in the form of advances as well as by constructing tanks and embankments and clearing the jungle for them.

[J. Westland, *Report on Jessore*, Calcutta, 1874; F. E. Pargiter, *Revenue History of the Sunderbans from 1765 to 1870*, Calcutta, 1885.]

**Panchānagrām.**—Government estate in the 24-Parganas District, Bengal. It comprises the suburbs of Calcutta, and is so named from the 55 villages which the estate originally comprised; these were in 1757, according to Holwell, "taken from the 24-Parganas adjoining to Calcutta in order to extend its bounds." The area is 26 square miles and the land-revenue demand in 1903-04 was Rs. 1,07,000. A portion of the estate pays a fixed rate of Rs. 3 per *bigha* (about one-third of an acre), and in the remainder rates fluctuate according to the position and advantages of the land. A list of the 55 villages originally included in the estate will be found on pages 53 and 54, Part I of the Calcutta Census Report, 1901.

**Alipore Town (Alipur).**—Head-quarters of the 24-Parganas District, Bengal, situated in 22° 32' N. and 88° 21' E. Alipore is a southern suburb of Calcutta and is included within the Calcutta municipality. It contains Belvedere House, the residence of the

Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, and is a popular quarter for Europeans. Aliporo is a cantonment for native troops, the force stationed there including a native infantry regiment and a detachment of cavalry. The annual receipts and expenditure of the cantonment fund averaged Rs. 2,500 in the decade ending in 1901; in 1903-04 its income was Rs. 2,600 and the expenditure Rs. 2,700. Orphanganj is a well-supplied market situated at Kidderpore less than a mile away, and managed by the Collector of the 24-Parganas. Aliporo contains the usual public offices. A large District and Central jail has accommodation for 1,837 prisoners, who are employed on the manufacture of gunny cloth and bags, jute twine, iron and wood work, and mustard oil, and in making up piece packets of quinine for sale in post offices. Almost all the products are sold to different Government departments, the profits earned in 1903 amounting to Rs. 58,000. There is also a reformatory, which contained 238 boys at the end of 1903; the principal handicrafts taught are carpentry, cane work, turning, painting and polishing, tin work and smithy, printing and composing, book-binding, shoe making, tailoring and gardening. A distillery at Kussa is managed by the Collector of Excise, Calcutta. The gardens of the Agri-Horticultural Society are situated to the south of Belvedere, and the Zoological Gardens to the north.

**Bāduriā.**—Town in the Basirhāt sub division, 24-Parganas District, Bengal, situated in  $22^{\circ} 45'$  N. and  $88^{\circ} 48'$  E. on the right bank of the Jamunā river. Population (1901) 12,921, of whom 7,074 were Hindus and 5,847 Muhammadans. The town has a considerable trade in jute, molasses and sugar. Bāduriā was constituted a municipality in 1869. The average income and expenditure for the decade ending in 1901-02 were Rs. 5,000 and Rs. 4,800 respectively. In 1903-04 the income, which is mainly derived from a tax on persons (or property tax) and the expenditure were each Rs. 5,000.

**Bānkipur.**—Ancient village in the 24-Parganas District, Bengal, on the Hooghly river near the modern Paltā, 3 miles above Barrackpore. The name of this village has disappeared from the map, and its site can only be identified from old charts. It formed the principal settlement in India of the ill-fated Ostend Company which was chartered by the Emperor of Austria in 1722. This settlement was regarded with great jealousy by the English, French and Dutch, and the result was that, when the Court of Vienna was anxious to obtain the European guarantee for the Pragmatic sanction in 1727, the Company's charter was suspended. In 1733 the Muhammadan general (*faujdar*) at Hooghly, at the instigation of the Dutch and English, besieged Bānkipur, and the garrison consisting of only 14 persons, after a despairing resistance against overwhelming numbers, abandoned the place and set sail for Europe.

**Baranagar** (*Barāhanagar*).—Town in the Barrackpore sub-division, 24-Parganas District, Bengal, situated in 22° 39' N. and 88° 22' E., on the east bank of the Hooghly river, 6 miles north of Calcutta. Population (1901) 25,432. Hindus number 19,581, Mussalmāns 5,697 and Christians 142. Baranagar seems to have been originally a Portuguese settlement, but it afterwards became the seat of a Dutch factory, and during the greater part of the 18th century Dutch vessels anchored there on their way up to Chinsura. Old Dutch tiles of artistic design are still found in some of the native buildings in the neighbourhood. The town was ceded by the Dutch Government to the English in 1795, and the lands are comprised in the Government estate of Baranagar, which is contiguous to the Panchānagrām estate. The lands are rented at Rs. 3 per *bigha* (about one-third of an acre). Baranagar was formerly a favourite pleasure resort for European residents of Calcutta, but it is now a busy industrial suburb and contains two of the largest jute mills on the Hooghly, while large quantities of castor oil are manufactured for export to Europe.

A municipality was constituted in 1869, which was known for many years as the North Suburban municipality. On the formation of the Cossimbazar-Cuttack municipality in 1889, the name was changed to Baranagar. In 1899 the municipality was divided into two portions, of which the northern became the KAMARHATI municipality. Since the partition, the average income has been Rs. 42,000 and the expenditure Rs. 41,000. In 1903-04 the income was Rs. 43,000 including Rs. 19,000 derived from a tax on houses and lands, and Rs. 16,000 from a conservancy rate, while the expenditure was Rs. 49,000. The Victoria high school is situated within the town.

**Bārāsāt Town**.—Head-quarters of the sub-division of the same name in the 24-Parganas District, Bengal, situated in 22° 43' N. and 88° 29' E. 14 miles north-east of Calcutta. Population (1901) 8,634. The town is very unhealthy, and the inhabitants are gradually moving to Calcutta and the healthier country on the banks of the Hooghly. In the early years of the 19th century, there was a college here for cadets on their first arrival from Europe, and, until 1861, Bārāsāt was the head-quarters of a separate District. It was constituted a municipality in 1869. The average income and expenditure for the decade ending in 1901-02 were Rs. 10,500 and Rs. 10,000 respectively. In 1903-04 the income was Rs. 12,400, half of which was derived from a tax on vehicles, while a tax on persons brought in Rs. 3,000. The expenditure in the same year was Rs. 12,600. The town contains the usual public offices; the jail, which has accommodation for 130 prisoners, is a three-storied building, popularly known as "Vansittart Villa," as it was formerly the country residence of Mr. Vansittart, one of the members

of Warren Hastings' council. Kāzīpāra, a suburb of the town, is the scene of an annual fair held in honour of a Musalmān saint, named Pīr Ekdil Sāhib, which is attended by Hindus as well as by Muhammadans. A light railway has recently been constructed between the town and Basīrhāt.

**Barrackpore Town.**—Head-quarters of the sub-division of the same name in the 24 Parganas District, Bengal, situated in 22° 46' N. and 88° 21' E. on the east bank of the Hooghly river, 15 miles above Calcutta. The town is comprised within two municipalities, North and South Barrackpore, containing, in 1901, 12,600 and 19,307 inhabitants respectively; South Barrackpore includes Barrackpore cantonment with a population in 1901 of 9,888. The name is probably derived from the fact of troops having been stationed here since 1772; the natives call the place Chānak. To the south of the cantonment is Barrackpore Park which has been laid out with much taste; it contains the suburban residence of the Viceroy of India, built by Lord Minto and enlarged by the Marquis of Hastings. The military force stationed at Barrackpore consists of a field battery, a company of British infantry and a native infantry regiment.

Barrackpore has played a part in two Mutinies. In 1824, when Bengal troops were required to take part in the Burmese war, the 47th Bengal Infantry, which was stationed here, was warned for foreign service. Alarmed by rumours that they were to be transported to Rangoon by sea, the regiment mutinied on parade on the 30th October. After ineffectual attempts at conciliation, the regiment was paraded on the 1st November in presence of Sir Edward Paget, the Commander-in-Chief, who directed them either to obey the orders to march or to ground their arms. Upon their refusal, a battery of European Artillery, supported by two English regiments, opened fire upon the mutineers, who broke at once and made for the river throwing away their arms. Some were shot, some drowned and others hanged; and the number of the regiment was removed from the Army list.

The first sparks of the Mutiny of 1857 were kindled in Barrackpore. The excitement which had been rapidly spreading among the native troops culminated on the 29th March, when Mangal Pānde, a sepoy of the 34th Native Infantry, attempted to kill one of the officers, Lieutenant Bough, fired at a European sergeant-major and called upon his comrades to join him. These outrages were committed within a few yards of the quarter-guard, which took no steps to interfere. As a punishment for this mutinous behaviour, the regiment was disbanded with ignominy on the 6th of May, Mangal Pānde and the native officer in charge of the guard having been previously tried by court-martial and hanged. A full account of these events will be found in Sir John Kaye's *History of the Sepoy War*, vol. i, pp. 266-269, 495.

Barrackpore is an important station on the Eastern Bengal State Railway and is the head-quarters of the recently constituted Barrackpore sub-division; it contains the usual public offices, a sub-jail with accommodation for 14 prisoners, and the Bhola Nath Bose hospital with 18 beds. The town is a favourite residence of Europeans, and the Christian population numbers 914.

The North Barrackpore municipality was constituted in 1869. The average income and expenditure for the 8 years ending in 1903-04 were Rs. 11,000. In 1903-04 the income was Rs. 13,000, including Rs. 5,000 realized from a tax on persons and the same amount from a conservancy rate, and the expenditure was Rs. 11,600. The municipal office is at Nawābganj, the residence of the Mandal family of zamindars. Within the municipal area is PAITA, where the Calcutta water-works are situated, and Ichāpur where there was until recently a Government powder factory. The GARULLA municipality was separated from North Barrackpore in 1896.

The South Barrackpore municipality was also constituted in 1869. Its area has been curtailed of late years by the separation of the TITAGARH municipality in 1895 and of the PANIHATI municipality in 1900. The average income for the 4 years ending in 1903-04 was Rs. 10,000 and the expenditure Rs. 9,000. In 1903-04 the income was Rs. 11,000, mainly from a tax on persons (or property tax), a conservancy rate and a tax on houses and lands, while the expenditure was Rs. 9,000. The municipal office is at KHARDAH.

The receipts and expenditure of the cantonment fund in the decade ending in 1901 averaged Rs. 25,000 per annum, and in 1903-04 they were Rs. 34,000 and Rs. 33,000 respectively.

**Bāruipur.**—Town in the head-quarters sub-division of the 24-Parganas District, Bengal, situated in 22° 21' N. and 88° 27' E. on the banks of the Adi Gangā (original bed of the Ganges), 15 miles south of Calcutta. Population (1901) 4,217. The town was formerly the head-quarters of a sub-division of the same name, which was amalgamated with the Alipore sub-division in 1883. Bāruipur derives its name from the extensive cultivation of *pān* (*Piper betel*) by the Bāru caste. The town is a mission station of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, and contains a large church. Bāruipur was constituted a municipality in 1869. The average income for the decade ending in 1901-02 was Rs. 4,700 and the expenditure Rs. 4,500. In 1903-04 the income was Rs. 6,900, including Rs. 3,000 derived from a tax on persons, and the expenditure was Rs. 7,200.

**Basīrhāt Town.**—Head-quarters of the sub-division of the same name in the 24-Parganas District, Bengal, situated in 22° 40' N. and 88° 51' E. on the right bank of the Jamunā river. Population (1901) 17,001. Basīrhāt was constituted a municipality

in 1869. The average income and expenditure for the decade ending in 1901-02 were Rs. 6,000. In 1903-04 the income was Rs. 6,600, mainly from a tax on persons, and the expenditure was Rs. 6,300. Basirhat contains the usual public offices; the sub-jail has accommodation for 12 prisoners. Basirhat is connected with Bārāsāt, a station on the Eastern Bengal State Railway, by a metalled road 26 miles in length, along which a light railway with 8 stations has recently been laid.

**Bhātpāra.**—Town in the Barrackpore sub-division, 24-Pargannas District, Bengal, situated in  $22^{\circ} 52' N.$  and  $88^{\circ} 25' E.$  on the left bank of the Hooghly river. Population (1901) 21,540. Bhātpāra has long been famous as a seat of Sanskrit learning, and contains several *talas* where pupils are educated and fed free of charge. It is also a busy industrial place, possessing jute mills and a paper mill situated chiefly in the villages of Jagatdal and Kānkīnām. Bhātpāra was formerly included in Naibāti municipality, but in 1899 a separate municipality was constituted. The average income for the 6 years since its constitution has been Rs. 25,000 and the expenditure Rs. 17,000. In 1903-04 the income was Rs. 51,000, including a loan from Government of Rs. 20,000 and Rs. 11,000 derived from a tax on persons; and the expenditure was Rs. 31,000.

**Budge-Budge (Baj-Baj).**—Town in the head-quarters sub-division of the 24-Pargannas District, Bengal, situated in  $22^{\circ} 29' N.$  and  $88^{\circ} 11' E.$  on the east bank of the Hooghly river, 14 miles below Calcutta. Population (1901) 13,051. The remains of a fort, which was captured from the forces of Sirāj-ud-daula by Clive in 1756, are still visible. Budge-Budge is a growing place; it is the oil depôt of Calcutta, and contains a large jute mill and a cotton mill. It was constituted a municipality in 1900. The average income for the 4 years ending in 1903-04 was Rs. 20,000 and the expenditure Rs. 14,000. In 1903-04 the income was Rs. 24,000, which was mainly derived from a tax on houses and lands, and the expenditure was Rs. 16,000.

**Calcutta, South Suburbs.**—Town in the head-quarters sub-division of the 24-Pargannas District, Bengal, comprising a portion of the southern suburbs of Calcutta. Population (1901) 26,374, of whom 20,165 were Hindus, 5,849 Musalmāns and 350 Christians. The application of the term "suburbs of Calcutta" has varied widely at different periods. By Act XXI of 1857 the "suburbs" were defined as including all lands within the general limits of the PANCHANAGRAM estate, and under the Bengal Municipal Act, 1876, they were further defined as comprising the present municipalities of Cossipore-Chitpur, Māniktala, Garden Reach, South Suburbs and Tollygunge, as well as so much of Calcutta as lay outside the limits of the "Old Town," which was bounded by Lower Circular Road and

Tolly's Nullah. This unwieldy municipality, known as the Suburban municipality, was in 1888 split up into four parts, the "Added Area" and "Fringe Area Wards" (defined in article on CALCUTTA) being added to Calcutta, and the municipalities of Cossipore-Chitpur and Māniktala created. These deductions still left the South Suburban municipality of unmanageable size, and, accordingly, in 1897 the Garden Reach municipality and in 1901 the Tollygunge municipality were separated from it. The constitution of the present "South Suburbs" municipality therefore dates from 1901. The average income for the 3 years following its constitution has been Rs. 52,000 and the expenditure Rs. 32,000. In 1903-04 the income was Rs. 79,000, including Rs. 11,000 derived from a tax on houses and lands and Rs. 29,000 obtained from the sale-proceeds of Government securities and the withdrawal of Savings Bank deposits. The expenditure in the same year was Rs. 52,000, of which Rs. 29,000 represented the outlay on the introduction of a supply of filtered water. The principal villages now within the municipality are Barisā and Behāla.

Canning, Port (*Mātla*).—Village in the head-quarters subdivision of the 24-Pargannas District, Bengal, situated in 22° 19' N. and 88° 39' E. at the junction of the Bidyādhari and Mātla rivers. Population (1901) 1,049. Between 1853 and 1870 an attempt was made to create a port at Canning as an auxiliary to Calcutta, in consequence of the deterioration of the river Hooghly, which was then believed to be rapidly closing. Land was acquired by Government in 1853, and in 1862 a municipality was created, to which the land was transferred. In 1865 the Port Canning Company was formed to develop the port; in that year it was visited by 26 ships, and for a time the Company's shares rose at an unprecedented rate; but the number of ships visiting the port dropped to one vessel in 1868-69, and the failure of the scheme was then recognised. Litigation ensued, and in 1870 the Company went into liquidation and was reconstructed as the "Port Canning Land Company, Limited." This company is under Parsi management, the shares being held in Bombay, and is engaged in leasing reclamations in the Sundarbans. The lands held by it have been sub-leased; and the middlemen, who have again sublet them to others, reap most of the profits. Canning is now a Government estate, and the only relics of the wild speculation of the sixties are a railway which does a little traffic in timber and other produce from the Sundarbans, some ruined jetties and the remains of a tramway line.

Cossipore-Chitpur (*Kāsipur*).—Northern suburb of Calcutta, in the 24-Pargannas District, Bengal, situated in 22° 37' N. and 88° 22' E. on the left bank of the Hooghly river. Population (1901) 40,750. Hindus number 29,056, Musalmāns 11,346 and Christians 338. Cossipore-Chitpur is a thriving industrial suburb,



containing the Government Gun Foundry and Shell Factory and a number of jute presses, sugar and other factories. The town is within the jurisdiction of the Calcutta police. The municipality was separated in 1889 from the South Suburban municipality. The average income for the decade ending in 1901-02 was Rs. 1,36,000, and the expenditure Rs. 1,31,000. A reserve is being accumulated to carry out a drainage scheme which is under contemplation. In 1903-04 the income was Rs. 1,58,000, including Rs. 70,000 derived from a tax on houses and lands, Rs. 25,000 from a conservancy rate, Rs. 28,000 from a water-rate, Rs. 16,000 from jute warehouse fees and Rs. 4,000 from a tax on vehicles. The incidence of taxation was Rs. 3.2-10 per head of the population. In the same year the expenditure was Rs. 1,65,000, the chief items being Rs. 13,000 spent on fire-engine establishment, Rs. 14,000 on lighting, Rs. 23,000 on water-supply, Rs. 7,000 on drainage, Rs. 54,000 on conservancy, Rs. 6,000 on medical relief, Rs. 16,000 on roads and Rs. 2,000 on education. Filtered water is purchased from the Calcutta Corporation and distributed in the streets and by house connections. The North Suburban is a large hospital with 30 beds for men and 10 for women. The electric tramway has been extended to Belgachia, where there is a Veterinary college.

**Diamond Harbour Village.**—Village in the 24-Parganas District, Bengal, and head-quarters of the sub-division of the same name, situated in 22° 10' N. and 88° 12' E. on the left bank of the river Hooghly. Population (1901) 1,036. The village is built on both banks of the Hajipur creek, which is crossed by a ferry. Diamond Harbour was a favourite anchorage of the Company's ships in olden times. It suffered severely in the terrible cyclone of 1864, which swept away large numbers of the inhabitants. A harbour master and customs establishment are maintained to board vessels proceeding up the river, and the movements of shipping up and down the river are telegraphed to Calcutta and published, at intervals throughout the day, in the Calcutta Telegraph Gazette. Diamond Harbour is connected with Calcutta by a branch of the Eastern Bengal State Railway, and by a metalled road 30 miles long. A mile to the south is Chingrikhali Fort where heavy guns are mounted and the artillery from Barrackpore encamp annually for gun practice. It is the head-quarters of the Salt Revenue department; and a quarantine station has been opened for the accommodation of pilgrims returning from Mecca. Steamers cross daily to Geonkhali in Midnapore, and the Assam steamers also touch here. Diamond Harbour contains the usual public offices; the sub-jail has accommodation for 12 prisoners.

**Dum-Dum** (*Damdama*, meaning a raised mound or battery).—Town in the Barrackpore sub-division, 24-Parganas District,

Bengal; situated in 22° 38' N. and 88° 25' E. 7 miles north-east of Calcutta. The town comprises the municipalities of North and South Dum-Dum with populations of 9,916 and 10,904 respectively; North Dum-Dum includes the cantonment with 4,920 inhabitants. Dum-Dum was the head-quarters of the Bengal Artillery from 1783 to 1853, when they were removed to Meerut; at present a detachment of a regiment of British infantry is quartered here in a fine range of barracks. Dum-Dum is also the site of the Government ammunition factory managed by the Indian Ordnance department. The cantonment contains European and native hospitals, a large bazar, Protestant and Roman Catholic churches, and a Wesleyan Chapel. In the churchyard are monuments erected to the memory of Colonel Pearse, the first Commandant of the Artillery regiment, and of Captain Nicholl and the officers and men of the Horse Artillery who perished during the retreat from Kabul in 1841. The treaty by which the Nawāb of Bengal ratified the privileges of the British, and restored the settlements at Calcutta, Cossimbazar and Dacca, was signed at Dum-Dum on February 6th, 1757. Dum-Dum was formerly a separate administrative sub-division, which was amalgamated with Bārāsāt in 1893. Since that year the civil and criminal administration of the cantonment has been vested in a Cantonment Magistrate, who is also Cantonment Magistrate of Barrackpore. The annual income of the cantonment fund averaged Rs. 16,200 in the decade ending in 1901, and the expenditure Rs. 16,600; in 1903-04 they were Rs. 17,500 and Rs. 17,300 respectively. Dum-Dum is a station on the Eastern Bengal State Railway and the junction of the eastern and central sections of that railway; there is a station on the latter section at Dum-Dum Cantonment.

The North Dum-Dum municipality was constituted in 1870, the Kadihāti municipality being amalgamated with it in 1883. The average income and expenditure for the decade ending in 1901-02 were Rs. 4,500 and Rs. 4,400 respectively. In 1903-04 the income was Rs. 6,000, including Rs. 3,000 obtained from a tax on vehicles, and the expenditure was Rs. 5,700. Filtered water is purchased from the Calcutta Corporation and distributed throughout the cantonment. South Dum-Dum municipality was constituted in 1870. The average income and expenditure for the decade ending in 1901-02 were Rs. 9,000 and Rs. 8,800 respectively. In 1903-04 the income was Rs. 13,000, mainly from municipal rates and taxes, such as a tax on houses and lands, a tax on vehicles and a conservancy rate, and the expenditure was Rs. 13,700. Filtered water is purchased from the Calcutta Corporation and distributed by hydrants. A *melā* is held every year in honour of the Muhammadan saint Shāh Farid. A large jute mill has recently been opened at Dakhindāri; and Pātīpukur,

a station on the Eastern Bengal State Railway, is rising into importance as a terminus of the jute traffic.

**Faltā.**—Village in the Diamond Harbour sub-division of the 24-Parganas District, Bengal, situated in  $22^{\circ} 17' N.$  and  $88^{\circ} 7' E.$ , on the left bank of the Hooghly river, nearly opposite to its junction with the Damodar. Faltā is the site of an old Dutch factory, and it was to this place that the English fleet retreated after the capture of Calcutta by Sirāj-ud-daula in 1757. A fort is situated here, which mounts heavy guns. The steamers plying between Calcutta and Tamrūk in the Midnapore District call at Faltā.

**Garden Reach.**—Town in the 24-Parganas District, Bengal, situated in  $22^{\circ} 33' N.$  and  $88^{\circ} 19' E.$ , immediately below Calcutta, of which it forms a suburb, on the east bank of the river Hooghly. The suburb is divided for administrative purposes into two portions, the Nemuckmahal Ghāt road dividing the Added Area of Calcutta on the east from the Garden Reach municipality on the west. The population of the latter in 1901 was 28,211. Hindus number 12,181, Musalmāns 15,779 and Christians 187. The site of the Aligarh fort, taken by Clive in December 1756, during the operations for the recapture of Calcutta, may still be seen. The suburb was formerly a favourite European quarter, and contains many fine houses built between 1768 and 1780. The residence of the late ex-king of Oudh was fixed here, and many of his dependants still inhabit the place. Garden Reach is now an important industrial suburb of Calcutta, and contains jute mills, a cotton mill and dockyard. Until 1897 the Garden Reach municipality formed part of the South Suburban municipality, but was separated from it in that year. The average income during the 7 years ending in 1903-04 was Rs. 49,000, and the expenditure Rs. 46,000. In 1903-04 the income was Rs. 56,400, including Rs. 25,000 derived from a tax on houses and lands, Rs. 14,000 from a conservancy rate, and Rs. 11,000 from a water-rate. The expenditure in the same year was Rs. 55,700. The municipality is now supplied with filtered water from the Calcutta mains.

**Gāralia.**—Town in the Barrackpore sub-division of the 24-Parganas District, Bengal, situated in  $22^{\circ} 49' N.$  and  $88^{\circ} 22' E.$  on the east bank of the Hooghly river. Population (1901) 7,375. It is a busy industrial place and contains jute and cotton mills. The village of SYAMNAGAR is within the town. Gāralia was included within the North Barrackpore municipality until 1896, when it was constituted a separate municipality. The average income of the municipality during the 8 years since its constitution has been Rs. 9,000 and its expenditure Rs. 8,000. In 1903-04 the income was Rs. 18,000, including a loan of Rs. 5,000 from Government, while the same sum was realized from

a tax on persons (or property tax). The expenditure in the same was Rs. 13,000.

**Gobardānga.**—Town in the Bārasat sub-division of the 24-Parganas District, Bengal, situated in 22° 53' N. and 88° 45' E. on the east bank of the Jamunā river, and on the Eastern Bengal State Railway. Population (1901) 5,865. Tradition points to this place as the spot where Krishna tended his flocks, and the name of the adjoining village, Gaipur, is said to be abbreviated from Gopipur and to denote the city of *gopins* or milkmaids, mistresses of Krishna. Sugar factories are numerous, and raw jute and molasses are exported. Gobardānga was constituted a municipality in 1870. The average income for the decade ending in 1901-02 was Rs. 3,600 and the expenditure Rs. 3,100, nearly all of which was derived from a tax on persons. In 1903-04 the income was Rs. 3,500, mainly from a tax on persons (or property tax), and the expenditure was Rs. 3,400.

**Hālisahar.**—Town in the Barrackpore sub-division, 24-Parganas District, Bengal, situated in 22° 56' N. and 88° 29' E., on the east bank of the Hooghly. Population (1901) 10,149. It was formerly called Kumārkhāta, and is a noted home of pandits; among other devotees of Gaurānga, Rām Prasād Sen lived here. It was constituted a municipality in 1903. The income for six months of 1903-04 was Rs. 4,200, of which Rs. 1,600 was derived from a tax on persons (or property tax), Rs. 1,400 from a conservancy rate and Rs. 900 from a tax on houses and lands. During the same period the expenditure amounted to Rs. 2,300. At KANCHRAPARA within this municipality are the workshops of the Eastern Bengal State Railway.

**Hārua.**—Village in the Basirhāt sub-division of the 24-Parganas District, Bengal, situated in 22° 37' N. and 88° 41' E. Population (1901) 705. It is the scene of a fair held every February in honour of Pir Gorā Ohānd, a Muhammadan saint, who lived 600 years ago and whose bones (*hār*) are buried here. The fair lasts a week.

**Jaynagar.**—Town in the head-quarters sub-division of the 24-Parganas District, Bengal, situated in 22° 11' N. and 88° 25' E. 31 miles south of Calcutta and distant 6½ miles by water from MAHERA HAT station on the Eastern Bengal State Railway. Population (1901) 8,810. Jaynagar was constituted a municipality in 1869. The average income and expenditure for the decade ending in 1901-02 were Rs. 6,100. In 1903-04 the income was Rs. 7,600, mainly from a tax on persons (or property tax), and the expenditure was Rs. 7,300.

**Kamārhāti.**—Town in the Barrackpore sub-division, 24-Parganas District, Bengal, situated in 22° 40' N. and 88° 23' E. on the east bank of the Hooghly river. Population (1901) 13,216. Within this municipality is the greater part of the

village of Dakhineswar, with its beautiful group of temples called Rānī Rāsmānī's Nabaratna. These consist of 2 beautiful central temples, dedicated to Kālī and Krishna, faced by 12 minor temples in honour of Siva. Kāmārhāti was formerly included within the Baranagar municipality, but in 1899 a separate municipality was constituted. The average income for the 5 years since the formation of the separate municipality has been Rs. 16,000 and the expenditure Rs. 15,000. In 1903-04 the income was Rs. 17,700, of which Rs. 7,000 was obtained from a tax on houses and lands and Rs. 8,000 from a conservancy rate; while the expenditure was Rs. 16,600.

**Kānchrāpāra.**—Village in the Barrackpore sub-division, 24-Parganas District, Bengal, situated in 22° 58' N. and 88° 26' E. Population (1901) 1,545. Kānchrāpāra is an important station on the Eastern Bengal State Railway, and the railway workshops are situated there. The village lies within the HALISAHAR municipality.

**Khārdah.**—Village in the Barrackpore sub-division, 24-Parganas District, Bengal, situated in 22° 44' N. and 88° 22' E. on the left bank of the Hooghly river. Population (1901) 1,777. Khārdah is a favourite place of pilgrimage for Vaishnavas, who visit the place in honour of Nityānanda, one of the disciples of Chaitanya, who took up his residence here. His descendants are regarded as *gurūs*, or spiritual guides, by the Vaishnavas. A fine temple is situated here, which contains the image of Syām Sundar, a name for the god Krishna. The village lies within the South Barrackpore municipality and is a station on the Eastern Bengal State Railway. Shoe brushes and bricks are manufactured on a large scale.

**Magrā Hāt.**—Village in the Diamond Harbour sub-division, 24-Parganas District, Bengal, situated in 22° 15' N. and 88° 23' E. Population (1901) 435. Owing to its position at the confluence of important waterways and upon the Diamond Harbour branch of the Eastern Bengal State Railway, Magrā Hāt is the largest rice mart in the south of the District, and agencies have been opened here for the purchase of rice and the sale of kerosene oil. The Church Missionary Society has a church here.

**Māniktala.**—Town in the 24-Parganas District, Bengal, situated in 22° 35' N. and 88° 23' E. Population (1901) 32,387, of whom Hindus number 22,792, Musalmāns 9,512 and Christians 65. Māniktala is the great eastern industrial suburb of Calcutta, and is wedged in between the Circular canal on the west, the New Cut on the east and the Beliāghāta canal on the south. Beliāghāta in the south of the town is the seat of an extensive trade in rice imported from the eastern Districts, while along the frontage of the Circular canal a brisk business is done in fire-wood, loose jute and rice. The other important wards are Ulādānga and

**Nārikeldānga.** Factories are numerous and include a jute mill, silk factory, bone crushing mills, shellac, saltpetre, castor oil and soap factories, and 4 tanneries. The nursery gardens of two Calcutta florists are situated in the town, which is within the jurisdiction of the Commissioner of Police, Calcutta, and forms part of the "Suburbs of Calcutta" sub-division. Māniktala was comprised in the Suburban municipality until 1889, when it was constituted a separate municipality. The average income for the decade ending in 1901-02 was Rs. 63,000 and the expenditure Rs. 59,000. In 1903-04 the income was Rs. 2,14,000, including a loan of Rs. 25,000 from Government, Rs. 31,000 derived from a tax on houses and lands, Rs. 18,000 from a conservancy rate and Rs. 7,000 from a tax on vehicles. The incidence of taxation was Rs. 2-1-10 per head of the population. In the same year the chief items of expenditure were Rs. 5,000 spent on lighting, Rs. 3,000 on drainage, Rs. 23,000 on conservancy, Rs. 1,800 on medical relief, Rs. 16,000 on roads, and Rs. 1,300 on education, and the total was Rs. 74,000.

**Naihāti.**—Town in the Barrackpore sub-division of the 24-Parganas District, Bengal, situated in 22° 54' N. and 88° 25' E. on the east bank of the Hooghly river. Population (1901) 13,604. Naihāti is a station on the Eastern Bengal State Railway and the junction of a branch railway across the Hooghly Bridge which connects with the East Indian Railway. An emigration depôt is situated in the town; and at Gauripur there are large jute and oil mills. Naihāti was constituted a municipality in 1869. The area within municipal limits has been greatly curtailed by the separation of the Bhātpāra municipality in 1899, and of the Halisahar municipality in 1903. The average income for the 5 years since its separation from Bhātpāra has been Rs. 21,000 and the expenditure Rs. 20,000. In 1903-04 the income was Rs. 13,700, including Rs. 5,000 derived from a tax on persons (or property tax), and the expenditure was Rs. 11,400.

**Paltā.**—Village in the Barrackpore sub-division of the 24-Parganas District, Bengal, situated in 22° 48' N. and 88° 22' E. on the left bank of the Hooghly river, 2 miles above Barrackpore. Population (1901) 2,038. At Paltā are situated the waterworks of the Calcutta Corporation. The water is pumped up from the Hooghly river and filtered, and flows to Calcutta in pipes. At this place the Grand Trunk Road from Calcutta crosses the Hooghly.

**Pānihāti.**—Town in the Barrackpore sub-division, 24-Parganas District, Bengal, situated in 22° 42' N. and 88° 22' E. on the left bank of the Hooghly river. Population (1901) 11,178. Agarpāra, within the municipality, has a church, female orphanage and school under the management of the Church Missionary Society. Pānihāti has a considerable trade in rice. Until 1900 it was included in the South Barrackpore municipality,

but in that year it was constituted a separate municipality. The average income for the 4 years since the separation has been Rs. 8,600 and the expenditure Rs. 8,000. In 1903-04 the income was Rs. 10,000, half of which was obtained from a tax on persons (or property tax), and the expenditure was Rs. 9,500.

**Rājpur.**—Town in the head-quarters sub-division of the 24-Pargannas District, Bengal, situated in  $22^{\circ} 26' N.$  and  $88^{\circ} 25' E.$  11 miles south of Calcutta. Population (1901) 10,713. Rājpur was constituted a municipality in 1876. The average income for the decade ending in 1901-02 was Rs. 8,400 and the expenditure Rs. 8,200. In 1903-04 the income was Rs. 10,000, half of which was derived from a tax on persons (or property tax), and the expenditure was Rs. 12,000.

**Salt Water Lake.**—Swamp in the head-quarters sub-division of the 24-Pargannas District, Bengal, situated about 5 miles east of Calcutta, between  $22^{\circ} 28'$  and  $22^{\circ} 36' N.$ , and  $88^{\circ} 23'$  and  $88^{\circ} 28' E.$ , with an area of about 30 square miles. This is a low depression which is being gradually filled by silt deposits of the tidal channels which intersect it. It serves as a cesspool for the sewage of Calcutta. A portion of the lake at Dhāpa is being gradually reclaimed by the deposit of street refuse, which is railed out daily from Calcutta.

**Syāmnagar.**—Village in the Barrackpore sub-division of the 24-Pargannas District, Bengal, situated in  $22^{\circ} 50' N.$  and  $88^{\circ} 24' E.$  on the east bank of the Hooghly river, on the Eastern Bengal State Railway, and 19 miles north of Calcutta. Population (1901) 102. A short distance east of the station are the ruins of an old fort surrounded by a moat, four miles in circumference, built in the 18th century by a Rājā of Burdwan as a refuge from the Marāthās. The fort now belongs to the Tagore family of Calcutta, and its ramparts are studded by thick date plantations. A Sanskrit college and a charitable dispensary are maintained by Mahārāja Sir Jotindra Mohan Tagore. Syāmnagar lies within the GARULIA municipality.

**Tāki.**—Town in the Basirhat sub-division, 24-Pargannas District, Bengal, situated in  $22^{\circ} 35' N.$  and  $88^{\circ} 55' E.$  on the Jamunā river. Population (1901) 5,089. Tāki is the centre of a considerable rice trade. It was constituted a municipality in 1869. The average income and expenditure for the decade ending in 1901-02 were Rs. 2,200 and Rs. 2,100, respectively. The income is derived chiefly from a tax on persons (or property tax), and in 1903-04 amounted to Rs. 2,300; the expenditure in the same year being Rs. 1,900.

**Titāgarh.**—Town in the Barrackpore sub-division of the 24-Pargannas District, Bengal, situated in  $22^{\circ} 45' N.$  and  $88^{\circ} 22' E.$  on the left bank of the Hooghly river, and on the Eastern Bengal State Railway. Population (1901) 16,065, of

whom 11,461 are males. Titāgarh was at one time a fashionable place of residence for Europeans, but it is now a busy commercial town containing four jute mills and a paper mill. It was formerly included within the South Barrackpore municipality, but in 1895 it was constituted a separate municipality. The average income during the 9 years since the separation has been Rs. 19,000 and the expenditure Rs. 16,000. In 1903-04 the income was Rs. 40,000, including a loan of Rs. 13,000 from Government, Rs. 11,000 derived from a tax on houses and lands, and Rs. 12,000 realized from a conservancy rate. The expenditure in the same year was Rs. 25,000.

**Tollygunge.**—Town in the head-quarters sub-division of the 24-Pargannas District, Bengal, situated in 22° 30' N. and 88° 19' E. 4 miles south of Calcutta. Population (1901) 12,821. Tollygunge is a southern suburb of Calcutta, with which it is connected by an electric tramway, and the northern portion of it forms part of the "Added Area" of Calcutta. It contains a police-station and the barracks of the 24-Pargannas police reserve, a steeple-chase course, and the grounds of the Tollygunge club, in which golf links have been laid out. Several of the descendants of the Mysore royal family have their residence here. Tollygunge was included in the South Suburban municipality until 1901, when a separate municipality was constituted. The average income and expenditure during the 3 years since the constitution of the municipality were Rs. 15,000. In 1903-04 the income was Rs. 18,000, half of which was obtained from a tax on houses and lands, and the expenditure was Rs. 19,500.

**Calcutta (*Kalikata*).**—Capital of the Indian Empire and the official residence of the Viceroy and Governor-General, situated on the east or left bank of the Hooghly river in 22° 34' N., and 88° 22' E., in the 24-Pargannas District, Bengal. The city lies about 86 miles from the sea, and is only 18 to 21 feet above the mean sea-level. Stretching northward for 6 miles along the river-bank, and bounded on the east by the Circular Canal and the Salt Lakes, it covers at the present day an area of 20,547 acres, of which only 1,792 are rural, and 1,113 acres form the Maidān. Calcutta is so called after a village, which formerly occupied the site of the modern Bow Bazar: the name is supposed by some to be connected with the worship of the goddess Kālī.

The city is bounded on all sides by suburban municipalities which have been excluded from Calcutta for purposes of municipal administration. COSSIMORE-CHITRAN on the north, MANIKTALA on the east and GARDEN REACH on the south-west, as well as HOWRAH on the west bank of the Hooghly river, are industrial suburbs, which form an integral part of the life of the metropolis. If these be included, Calcutta has a population of 1,106,738, which is greater than that of any European city, except London,



Constantinople, Paris and Berlin, and of any city in America, except New York, Chicago and Philadelphia. Excluding China, the population of whose cities is uncertain, the only city in Asia with more inhabitants than Calcutta is Tokio, and next to London, it is the most populous city in the British Empire. The present article is, however, confined to the municipal town of Calcutta as defined in Bengal Act III of 1899, Fort William and the water area, the population of which is 808,969, 4,612 and 34,215 respectively.

The importance of Calcutta lies in its position as the capital of the empire and as a seaport situated on a navigable river and connected by converging lines of railway, rivers, navigable canals, and roads with the rich valleys of the Ganges and Brahmaputra, whose produce it exports overseas, while it supplies their dense population with the products and manufactures of other countries.

In the centre of the town stands Fort William surrounded by the noble expanse of park known as the Maidan. North of this are the shops and business houses of the Europeans, whose residential quarter bounds it on the east. To the south and south-east lie the European suburbs of BALLTONGEE and of ALIPORE, which contains the residence of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. Surrounding the European quarter on all sides is the native town. Immediately north of the European commercial quarter is Burra Bazar, the chief centre of native business; the buildings are mainly one-storied masonry shops, and it is only here and in the adjoining quarters of Jorabagan and Bow Bazar that brick buildings are more numerous than tiled huts. Three-fifths of the whole population live in the latter, which have mud or wattle walls and are known as *kachcha* houses. The native town is traversed by three main roads from north to south, and by five or six roads from east to west, but with these exceptions it is extremely ill-arranged. The lanes are narrow, tortuous and badly lit; the dwellings are overcrowded and insanitary; and the overwhelming proportion of one-storied houses gives this portion of the town a peculiarly squalid appearance which belies the proud title of a city of palaces which Calcutta claims.

The city of Calcutta includes the area under the control of the municipal corporation, or Calcutta proper, and also Fort William and the Maidan (1,283 acres), which are under the military authorities, and the water area, or port and canals, with an area of 7,310 acres. Calcutta proper again is divided into the "Old Town" and the "Added Area." The former, which covers 3,786 acres, is divided into 18 wards, and is situated between Lower Circular Road and the river Hooghly. This is the tract within the old Marāthā dīch, and corresponds with the original civil jurisdiction of the *Sadar Dīwāni Adalat*. The Added Area

lies south and east of the Old Town, and is separated from it by the Circular Road; it contains 8,188 acres distributed over 11 wards. It was excluded from the Suburban municipality and added to Calcutta by Bengal Act II of 1888.

The soil on which Calcutta is built has been formed at a Geology. comparatively recent date by the alluvial deposits of the Gangetic delta, and excavations made for tanks and foundations disclose alternate layers of sand and clay. A bore hole sunk in Fort William in 1840 revealed an ancient land surface at a depth of 382 feet.

The climate is hot and moist. The average mean temperature Climate. is 79°, the mean maximum being 102° in May and the mean minimum 48° in January. The average temperature in the hot weather is 85°, in the rains 83°, and in the cold season 72°. Humidity averages 78 per cent., of saturation, ranging from 69 per cent. in March to 89 per cent. in August. The average annual rainfall is 60 inches and the average number of rainy days in the year 118.

At the beginning and close of the rainy season Calcutta is Cyclones. frequently visited by cyclones, the most disastrous having occurred in 1737, 1842, 1864 and 1867. In that of 1737 the steeple of St. Anne's Church fell to the ground, many houses were blown down, and all but one of the ships in the river were driven ashore. In the cyclone of 1864 as many as 49 persons were killed and 16 injured; several brick houses were destroyed or damaged, and only 23 of the 195 vessels in the port escaped without injury.

The earthquake of 12th June 1897 was severely felt in Earth-Calcutta; the steeple of the Cathedral was destroyed and 1,300 quakes. houses were injured.

Calcutta is mentioned in a poem of 1495 as a village on History. the bank of the Hooghly. When the Portuguese began to frequent the river about 1530, SATGAON, not far from Hooghly on the old Saraswati river, was the great emporium of trade. Owing to the shallowness of the upper reaches of the river, however, the ships used to anchor at Garden Reach, and their goods were sent up to Satgaon in small boats; and a market thus sprang up at Betor, near Sibpur, on the west bank of the Hooghly, which the Portuguese made their head-quarters. In the 16th century the Saraswati began to silt up, and Satgaon was abandoned. Most of its inhabitants went to the town of Hooghly, but about the middle of the century four families of Bysaks and one of Seths founded the village of Gobindpur on the site of the modern Fort William. Shortly after this the Portuguese moved to Hooghly, deserting Betor, and the trade of the latter place was gradually transferred to Sutanuti (cotton mart) in the north of modern Calcutta. Job Charnock of the British East India

Company came to this place in 1686, after his skirmish with the Mughals at Hooghly, and formulated certain demands on the Nawáb. These were rejected by the latter, who ordered his subordinates to drive the British out of the country. Charnock retaliated by destroying the salt-houses and forts at Tana or Garden Reach and seizing Hijili. He was shortly afterwards superseded by Captain Heath, who came out from England with instructions to seize Chittagong. The attempt on this place failed, but on the 24th August 1690 the English returned to Sütánuti under Charnock, at the invitation of the Nawáb, and laid the foundation of modern Calcutta.

Several reasons led to the selection of this place as the headquarters of British trade in Bengal. The Hooghly river tapped the rich trade of the Ganges valley, and Calcutta was situated at the highest point at which the river was navigable for sea-going vessels; it was moreover protected against attack by the river on the west and by morasses on the east, and it could be defended by the guns of the shipping.

In 1696 the rebellion of Subha Singh, a Burdwán zamindár, assumed formidable dimensions, and the British applied to the Nawáb for permission to fortify their settlement. This was granted, and a fort was constructed on a site extending from the modern Fairlie Place on the north to Koila Ghát Street on the south, the river forming the western, and Dalhousie Square the eastern, boundary. It was completed in 1702. Four years previously the three villages of Calcutta, Sütánuti and Gobindpur had been purchased from the governor of Hooghly.

The town grew rapidly; within a short time a wharf, a good hospital, a Church and barracks were erected; and in 1707 the East India Company Directors declared it a separate Presidency accountable only to the Directors in London. The new settlement was perpetually harassed by the Muhammadan governors of Bengal, and in 1717 the Council of the Settlement sent an embassy to Delhi to procure the recognition of their rights in the country and permission to purchase property on the banks of the Hooghly. The emperor granted the permission sought for, but it was to a great extent rendered nugatory by the determined opposition of the Nawáb.

In 1742, the inhabitants commenced to dig an entrenchment round their settlement as a defence against the Maráthás, who were then raiding Bengal. This entrenchment, known as the Maráthá ditch, followed the course of the modern Circular Road, but it was never completed along the southern boundary. The scare caused by the Maráthá invasion and the growing trade of the Company brought a large influx of new settlers, and in 1752 Holwell calculated the population at 409,000, though this was probably an over-estimate as the number of houses was still less.

than 15,000. The original settlement round the Fort was protected by palisades, but the Company's servants lived in the quarter now bounded by Canning Street on the north, Hastings Street on the south, Mission Row on the east, and the river on the west. Within this area there were in 1753, exclusive of the Fort and its warehouses, no less than 230 masonry structures, and the native portion of the town contained about the same number.

The chief event in the early history of Calcutta is its capture in 1756 by Sirāj-ud-daula, Nawāb of Bengal. The native troops deserted and the Europeans were driven into the fort, which was practically indefensible, as its guns were masked by the surrounding buildings. The Governor and many of the officials made their escape to the ships, which thereupon dropped down the river, and the garrison, under the command of Holwell, were driven to surrender. They were forced, to the number of 146, into a small room, measuring only 18 by 14 feet, which is known to history as the Black Hole. Here they were left for the night: it was the 20th June; the heat was intense, and the two small grated windows were quite insufficient to give air to the closely packed crowd, who endured terrible sufferings. When the morning came and the door was opened, only 23 were found alive.

The town was recaptured by Clive and Admiral Watson early in 1757, and after the battle of Plassey, Mir Jafar gave the English the zamindāri of the 24-Parganas, as well as a free gift of the town and some of the adjacent villages. Heavy compensation was paid to the merchants and the Company's servants and adherents for their losses, and permission was granted to establish a mint. From this date the town has enjoyed uninterrupted prosperity. With part of the compensation money received from the Nawāb, Gobindpur was cleared of its inhabitants and the foundations of the present fort were laid. It was not finished till 1773 and is said to have cost 2 million sterling, half a million of which was spent on works to protect the west face from the erosion of the river. The clearing of the jungle round the fort led to the formation of the Maidān. In 1766 the General Hospital was removed to its present site, and at this period the European quarter began to extend southwards along Chowringhee. In 1773 by an Act of Parliament the Bengal Council was vested with control over the other Indian possessions of the Company, and soon afterwards Warren Hastings removed the treasury from Murshidābād to Calcutta.

The history of municipal administration in Calcutta dates from 1727, when the first Corporation came into existence. It consisted of a Mayor and 9 Aldermen, and its duties were to collect ground rents and town dues, and to make the necessary repairs to roads and drains. The amount thus spent was, however, insignificant. An effort was made, about 1757, to organise a

municipal fund by levying a house-tax, but the scheme came to nothing. The duty of keeping the town in order rested with the Police Commissioner ; but its insanitary condition was notorious, and in 1780 the native town was thus described by Mackintosh :—  
 “It is a truth that, from the western extremity of California to the eastern coast of Japan, there is not a spot where judgment, taste, decency and convenience are so grossly insulted as in that scattered and confused chaos of houses, huts, sheds, streets, lanes, alleys, windings, gulleys, sinks and tanks, which, jumbled into an undistinguished mass of filth and corruption, equally offensive to human sense and health, compose the capital of the English Company's Government in India. The very small portion of cleanliness which it enjoys is owing to the familiar intercourse of hungry jackals by night, and ravenous vultures, kites and crows by day. In like manner it is indebted to the smoke raised on public streets, in temporary huts and sheds, for any respite it enjoys from mosquitoes, the natural productions of stagnated and putrid waters.”

By a statute of George III Justices of the Peace were appointed for the town in 1794, and regular assessments were authorised. The Circular Road was metalled, and the conservancy establishment was increased. But many defects remained, and in 1803 Lord Wellesley pointed out the extremely defective construction of the public drains and water-courses, the absence of any regulations in respect of the situation of public markets and slaughter-houses, the irregularity of the buildings and the dangerous condition of the streets, and appointed a Town Improvement Committee of 30 members to carry out the necessary reforms.

Since 1793 it had been the practice to raise money for public improvements by means of lotteries, ten per cent. of their value being set aside for public works or charitable purposes. As long as the Town Improvement Committee existed, these funds were made over to it ; but in 1817 a Lottery Committee was formed, which was employed for 20 years in schemes for the improvement of the town. During this period a great advance was undoubtedly made. The Town Hall was built and the Beliaghata canal dug, and a large number of streets were opened out, including the Strand Road, Amherst Street, Colootolla and Mirzapur Streets, Free School Street, Kyd Street, Canal Road, Mango Lane, and Bentinok Street, and the long roadway formed by Cornwallis Street, College Street, Wellington Street, and Wellesley Street, with the 4 adjoining squares. Arrangements for watering the streets were also introduced. In 1820 a systematic plan for road metalling was adopted at an annual cost of Rs 25,000. Public opinion in England having condemned this method of providing funds for municipal purposes, the Lottery Committee came to an end in 1836.

Meanwhile, under the Act of 1794, the Justices had met the expenses of the conservancy and police of the town from a tax on houses and licenses for the sale of liquor. In 1819 the house tax realised a little over 2½ lakhs, and in 1836 this had risen to 3 lakhs, while 1½ lakhs was derived from excise. The expenditure on conservancy and police was at this period 5½ lakhs, the difference being made up by Government.

In 1810 the principle of municipal taxation was extended to the suburbs. In 1840 an Act was passed dividing Calcutta into four divisions and authorising the rate-payers, on an application made by two-thirds of them, to undertake their own assessment, collection and management of the rates up to a limit of 5 per cent. on the assessable property in Calcutta. Nothing came of this Act, and in 1847 the Justices were replaced by a Board of 7 paid members, 4 of whom were to be elected by the rate-payers. They were empowered to purchase and hold property for the improvement of Calcutta and to make surveys, and were entrusted with the maintenance of the streets and drainage. In 1852 their number was reduced to 4, two being appointed by Government and two elected; and they were allowed a maximum salary of Rs. 250 a month. The house-tax was raised first to 6½ per cent. and later to 7½ per cent., and a 2 per cent. lighting rate and a tax on carts were authorised; horses and vehicles had already been made taxable by the Act of 1847. The Commissioners were required to set aside 1½ lakhs for the sewage and drainage of the town. In 1856 their number was reduced to 3, all of whom were appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor.

In 1863 the municipal government was vested in a body composed of all the Justices of the Peace for the town of Calcutta, together with all the Justices for the Province who happened to be resident in Calcutta. This body elected its own Vice-Chairman and had a regular Health Officer, Engineer, Surveyor, Tax Collector and Assessor. A water-rate was imposed and the house-tax raised to a maximum of 10 per cent. The Justices' powers of borrowing were extended by several Acts, and during their period of office, the drainage and water system of the town were largely developed. The New Market was erected in 1874 and the municipal slaughter houses in 1866. Foot-paths were made along the main thoroughfares, Beadon Square was opened, and in all about 2 crores were spent on the improvement of the town.

In 1876 a new Corporation was created, consisting of 72 commissioners with a Chairman and Vice-Chairman; 48 of the commissioners were elected by the rate-payers and 24 appointed by the Local Government. This body completed the original drainage scheme, largely increased the supply of filtered and unfiltered water, and effected many other improvements, including the construction of the Harrison Road.

In 1888 the municipal boundaries were extended by the inclusion of a large portion of the suburbs lying south and east of the Circular Road. Seven wards were added, and additions were made to three other wards in the north of the town. The number of municipal commissioners was raised to 75, of whom 50 were elected, 16 appointed by Government, and the other 10 nominated by the Chamber of Commerce, the Trades Association and the Port commissioners. During the following 10 years the filtered water-supply was further extended, at a cost of 18 lakhs, and an underground drainage scheme for the Added Area was started. A *dhobikhānā*, or laundry, and an incinerator were constructed, and a number of insanitary tanks were filled up and replaced by roads and squares. This constitution remained unaltered until 1900, when it was replaced by the system of municipal government now in force which will be described further on.

The  
people.

The population of Calcutta in 1901 was 847,796, the mean density for the whole town being 41 persons per acre, while it was 68 in Calcutta proper. By far the most crowded ward is Colootolla with 281 persons to the acre, and it is followed by Jorāsānko (202), Jorābhāgān (201) and Moocheepāra (199); these wards are in the centre of the native commercial quarter. The lowest density occurs in the suburbs of Alipore and Dallygunge, where much land is still not built over. The greatest increase in population during the last decade has occurred in the wards which were already most populous in 1891. Judged by European standards, the city is seriously overcrowded; more than half the population have less than half a room per head, and 90 per cent. have three-quarters of a room or less. In Burra Bazar no less than 9,531 persons out of 31,674 are crowded four or more into each room. The town in normal years is fairly healthy, but of late the mortality has been greatly swollen by the plague, which in 1903 accounted for 8,222 deaths out of a total of 29,765; the other chief diseases are fever, dysentery, cholera and respiratory complaints.

Estimates of the population were made from time to time, but they were partial and untrustworthy, and it was not until 1876 that the first complete census was taken. The population then enumerated for the whole area of modern Calcutta was 611,784, which grew to 612,307 in 1881, to 682,305 in 1891 and to 847,796 in 1901. On the last two occasions the increases have amounted to 11 and 24 per cent. respectively.

Only a third of the population of Calcutta were born there; half were born in other parts of Bengal and one-seventh in other parts of India. The number of persons born in other countries in Asia is 2,973, in Europe 6,701, in Africa 96, in America 175, in Australia 80 and at sea 9. Of the number born in other

parts of Bengal the 24-Parganas supplies nearly one-fifth, and large numbers come from Hooghly, Gayā, Patna, Midnapore and Cuttack. Of those from other parts of British India the bulk are recruited from the United Provinces, chiefly from Benares, Azamgarh, Ghāzipur and Jaunpur. Of other Asiatics, the Chinese, who congregate in China Bazar and the Bow Bazar and Waterloo Street sections, account for 1,709, of whom only 141 are females. Of those born in Europe 5,750 are British and 951 come from other countries, France (176), Germany (168) and Austria (108) alone having more than 100 representatives.

In the whole population there are only half as many women as men. This is due to the large number of immigrants, among whom there are only 279 females to 1,000 males; the majority of these are temporary settlers who leave their families at home. Another result of the large volume of immigration is that 44 per cent. of the entire population are male adults, which is double the proportion for the whole of Bengal.

No less than 57 different languages are spoken by people living in Calcutta, of which 41 are Asiatic and 16 non-Asiatic. The Bengali-speaking population numbers 435,000 and the Hindi-speaking 319,000. About 31,000 persons speak Oriyā, 29,000 English and 24,000 Urdū.

By religion 65 per cent. are Hindus, 29·4 per cent. Muhammadans and 4 per cent. Christians, leaving only about 1 per cent. for all other religions combined; the latter include 2,903 Buddhists, 1,829 Jews and 1,799 Brahmos. Hindus preponderate in the north of the town, while the chief Musalmān centres are Colootolla and Moocheopāra, and the outlying wards near the Docks and Canals.

During the decade ending in 1901 the growth of the Christian population was 31 per cent. The number of native Christians during the same period increased from 6,671 to 9,872, or by 49 per cent., the Roman Catholic missions with a gain of 88 per cent. being the most successful. The chief Protestant proselytising bodies are the Church Missionary Society, the Oxford Mission, the Baptist Mission, the London Mission, the Episcopal Methodist Mission and the missions of the Established and Free Churches of Scotland. Besides direct evangelization, most of the missions maintain schools and colleges, and thus promote the cause of higher education.

Brāhmins (83,000) are the most numerous caste, and with Kayasths (67,000), Kaibarttas (37,000), Subarnabaniks and Chamārs (25,000 each), Goālās (23,000) and Tāntis (21,000) account for more than half the Hindu population. Among the Muhammadans 91 per cent. are Shaikhs and 5 per cent. Pathāns, while Saiyids number 8,000. Europeans number 13,571, and Eurasians 14,482.

Castes  
and  
occupa-  
tions.



The main features of the statistics of occupation prepared at the census of 1901 are reproduced below:—

Main head of occupation.	WORKERS.		Total number of workers and dependents.	Percentage to whole population.
	Male.	Female.		
Government service ...	18,737	218	39,590	5
Pasture and agriculture ...	12,413	1,370	30,754	4
Personal service ...	81,704	23,649	149,933	18
Preparation and supply of material substances	140,110	12,970	271,713	32
Commerce, trade and storage ...	123,698	1,981	208,854	24
Professions ...	20,032	2,449	61,812	6
Unskilled labour ...	33,034	16,267	61,523	7
Independent of labour	12,171	6,629	33,617	4
Total ...	411,969	66,236	647,795	100

Nearly a third of the inhabitants of Calcutta are engaged in manufactures, and nearly a fourth in trade, while personal service accounts for a sixth. Assuming that a man does not begin to work until 15 years of age, it would appear that no less than 96 per cent. of the males above that age are actual workers; the corresponding proportion in the case of women is only 32. The industrial population is most numerous in Colootolla, Moocheepara, Jorāsānko, Bhawānipur, Intally and Beniāpukur, while Jorāsānko, Burra Bazar and Jorābāgān wards have the greatest number of persons engaged in commerce. The professional element is strongest in Buriolla in the north, and in Bhawānipur in the south of the town.

Art and manufactures.

The city itself contains but few factories, only 3 jute mills and 2 jute presses lying within the town. In the outskirts of the city, however, several smaller industrial concerns are situated, including 63 oil-mills chiefly worked by cattle, 24 flour mills, 2 rice mills, 16 iron foundries and 12 tanneries, which employ less than 13,000 persons all told. The chief home industries are pottery and brass-work, but Calcutta exports little of its own manufactures, and it is to commerce that the city mainly owes its position.

Commerce and trade.

Calcutta came into existence as a trading city, because its position enabled merchants to tap the rich traffic of the valley of the Ganges. The luxurious courts of the Mughal rulers had fostered the manufacture at Dacca and Murshidābād of beautiful silks and muslins, which were eagerly bought up in Europe. The saltpetre of Bihār was in great demand in England for the

manufacture of gunpowder during the French wars, and rice, sesamum oil, cotton cloths, sugar, clarified butter, lac, pepper, ginger, myrabolams and *tasar* silk were also in great request. Bengal produced all these articles, and Calcutta was the only seaport from which they could be exported.

The demand for Indian muslins gradually died out in Europe, while early in the 19th century Lancashire began to export manufactured cotton goods to India, and the introduction of steam-power placed the local weavers at such a disadvantage that piece-goods are now by far the largest article of import to Bengal, while the export of silk and cotton manufactures has practically ceased. The export of jute, on the other hand, has grown enormously since the middle of the 19th century, and the production of oilseeds, indigo and tea has vastly increased. Bengal coal is in great demand all over India, and salt and mineral oils are largely imported. Through all these vicissitudes of commerce, Calcutta has more than held its own, and the development of railways and of steamer routes along the main water-ways has greatly strengthened its position, so that it now focuses the trade of Assam as well as of Eastern Bengal and of the Gangetic valley.

The foreign trade of the port in 1903-04, exclusive of the Sea-borne transport of treasure, was valued at 90.54 crores, of which exports amounted to 57.04 crores, and the consing trade at 11.61 crores, of which 6.66 crores represented exports. The total value of the sea-borne trade including treasure was 112.92 crores.

The steady progress of foreign trade in recent years is indicated by the figures below which show the average annual value of the foreign imports and exports of merchandise (omitting treasure) during successive quinquennial periods:—

Five years ending	Lakhs of rupees.		Five years ending	Lakhs of rupees.			
	Imports.	Exports.		Imports.	Exports.		
1875	...	16.43	23.59	1895	...	25.95	39.97
1880	...	17.80	27.78	1900	...	28.45	45.59
1885	...	21.50	33.08	Four years ending			
1890	...	23.44	35.23				
				1904	...	32.66	54.28

The chief imports into Calcutta are cotton goods, representing in 1903-04 a value of over 16 crores. Next in importance are treasure, metals, oil, sugar and machinery, and these are followed by woollen goods, hardware and cutlery, salt, liquors, apparel, drugs and railway material. About seven-eighths (in value) of the imports came from Europe, three-quarters of the whole being from the United Kingdom.

The chief exports are raw and manufactured jute, tea, opium, hides and skins, oilseeds, grain and pulses, indigo, lac, raw cotton, coal, raw silk, saltpetre and oils. The most striking feature in

the growth of the export trade has been the enormous increase in the shipments of jute and coal. The exports of jute have risen from 8 crores in 1893-94 to nearly 20 crores in 1903-04, and now form about three-eighths of the outward trade; while the shipments of coal to foreign ports amounted in 1901 to more than half a million tons as against 8 tons in 1880. During the same period the imports of foreign coal dwindled from 70,000 to 2,000 tons. More than half of the export trade was with European countries, the United Kingdom taking a third of the whole. Of the Continental countries Germany took almost as much as all the others combined. The trade with the United States came next to that of the United Kingdom, and China took rather less than Germany. It is a significant fact that the balance of trade has been in favour of this country throughout the period mentioned.

Coasting  
trade.

The coasting trade has been influenced considerably by extensions of railway communications and by the development of direct steamship communications between other Indian ports and abroad. The value of imports in 1903-04 was 504 lakhs, of which 462 lakhs was the value of Indian produce and 32 lakhs of foreign merchandise, while 10 lakhs represented treasure. The exports were valued at 726 lakhs, of which 587 lakhs was the value of Indian produce and 79 lakhs that of foreign merchandise, treasure amounting to 60 lakhs. The chief ports with which the coasting trade is carried on are Rangoon, Moulmein, Akyab, Bombay and Madras. The imports are cotton goods and salt from Bombay, rice and mineral oil from Burma, and sugar, vegetable oil and oilseeds from Madras; and the exports are grain and pulses, coal, jute and gunnies, spices, tobacco and tea.

Internal  
trade.

In respect of internal trade, the principal articles which make up the imports to Calcutta are, from Bengal, raw and manufactured jute, rice, coal, linseed, opium, tea, grain and pulses, hides and skins, silk and indigo; from the United Provinces opium, oilseeds, grain and pulses, hides and skins and mineral manufactures; and from Assam tea, oilseeds, grain, pulses and lime. In 1901-02 the imports from Bengal were valued at nearly 49 crores. Calcutta being the chief distributing centre of Bengal, the principal articles exported to the interior are the same as those enumerated under the head of foreign imports. The total exports from Calcutta by rail, road and river were valued at nearly 88 crores in 1903-04.

Trade  
associations.

The chief associations connected with the trade and commerce of the town are the Bengal Chamber of Commerce (founded in 1834) with its affiliated Societies, and the Royal Exchange, Bengal Bonded Warehouse Association, the Calcutta Trades Association and the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce.

Communi-  
cations.

Three great railways converge on Calcutta. The East Indian Railway connects Calcutta with Bombay, the United Provinces and

the Punjab, and is the outlet for the rich traffic of the Ganges valley. Its terminus is on the west bank of the river at Howrah, but a branch crosses the Hooghly by a bridge at Naihati 25 miles up the river and provides access to the docks at Kidderpore over the Eastern Bengal State Railway. The Bengal-Nagpur Railway runs through Orissa to Madras, and westwards through the Central Provinces to Bombay; its terminus is also at Howrah, but a wagon ferry plies between Shalimír and the docks. The Eastern Bengal State Railway, the terminus of which is at Sealdah, connects Calcutta with North and East Bengal and Assam and with Diamond Harbour.

The railways, however, by no means monopolise the traffic. Numerous native craft ply up and down the rivers, along the channels through the Sunderbans which connect Calcutta with Eastern Bengal and the valley of the Brahmaputra, and on the Midnapore and Orissa Coast Canals. There are also several large steamer companies, whose vessels navigate these inland waters and carry an extensive coasting trade to the Orissa ports; the most important of these are the India General, and the Calcutta Steam and River, Steam Navigation Companies.

The Port was formerly under direct Government management, The Port. but in 1870 a Port Trust was formed, consisting at first of 12, and afterwards of 15, commissioners. The Strand bank lands were subsequently made over to them on an annual quit-rent of Rs. 37,392. The value of the property taken over by the Trust was estimated at 27·65 lakhs, and with further advances the debt was consolidated into a single loan of 60 lakhs. During the last 30 years the commissioners have been adding considerably to the facilities of the Port. In 1870 there were only 6 screw-pile jetties, 6 cranes and 4 sheds for the accommodation of the sea-going trade; whereas now there are 6 unloading berths for sea-going vessels at the jetties, with a frontage of 2,982 feet, and all the loading is done separately at the Kidderpore docks. These docks, which were constructed in 1884-85 at a cost of 285 lakhs, consist of a basin, connected by a double passage with the wet docks, which accommodate 12 vessels, and of two graving docks. The Petroleum Wharf at Budge-Budge was established in 1886, and the Tea Warehouse in 1887. In 1889 the Port commissioners were made the Conservators of the Port. They have their own dock-yard and workshop, and they maintain a staff of Assistant Harbour Masters, who take over the pilotage of all vessels from Garden Reach; they license all cargo boats and pay three-fourths of the cost of the River police; they survey and prepare charts of the river from Calcutta to the sea, and are responsible for the lighting of the Hooghly

The revenue of the Port in 1903-04 amounted to 80 lakhs and the expenditure to 77 lakhs. The bulk of the income is derived from a toll of 4 annas a ton on all goods shipped or discharged. The capital debt amounts to 501 lakhs, and the book value of the Trust property is returned at 656 lakhs, exclusive of the Strand Bank and Howrah foreshore lands and an accumulated sinking fund of 42 lakhs.

The  
Hooghly  
pilots.

Even before the foundation of Calcutta, the East India Company had found it necessary to maintain a special staff to guide ships through the difficult channels of the Hooghly. The Pilot Service is now a Government department, consisting in 1903-04 of 58 officers paid by fees. Some account of the action taken from time to time to keep the channels open, and to facilitate navigation, will be found in the article on the HOOGHLY RIVER.

Shipping.

The trade of the port has grown up since 1727, when the shipping was estimated at but 10,000 tons. The steady growth of the trade in recent years will be seen from the following abstract:—

YEAR.	ENTERED.		CLEARED.	
	Number of vessels.	Tons.	Number of vessels.	Tons.
1880-87 ...	1,887	1,553,676	1,410	1,620,677
1891-92 ...	1,440	1,912,681	1,416	1,849,676
1896-97 ...	1,676	2,070,786	1,679	2,060,867
1901-02 ...	1,499	2,869,700	1,514	2,973,780
1903-04 ...	1,603	3,174,916	1,569	3,176,263

The most noticeable features of recent years are the substitution of steam for sailing vessels, the rapid growth of the coasting trade, and the increase in the size of the vessels visiting the port. In 1880-87 the number of sailing vessels was 466, but in 1903-04 it had dropped to 87, and only 29 of these hailed from foreign ports. During the same period the volume of the coasting trade has grown from 1,410,000 tons to 3,317,000 tons; the average tonnage of vessels engaged in the foreign trade has increased from 1,449 to 2,622 tons, and that of coasting vessels from 881 to 1,679 tons.

Roads and  
bridges. Up to 1867 only two of the roads in Calcutta were metalled with stone; but in 1905 there were 300·43 miles of road, of which 117 miles were metalled with stone. The roads are maintained by the Corporation with the exception of those on the Maidān which were under the charge of the Public Works department. The city is intersected by four main roads running

parallel with the river. The most westerly of these, known as the Strand Road, has been formed by successive reclamations of the foreshore and skirts the river bank from Hastings to Nimtolla, passing by Fort William, the Eden Gardens and the Jetties. East of this is the Chowringhee Road with its row of lofty houses facing the Maidān, which a traveller of the 18th century described as "an entire village of palaces." This road, with its northern continuations, Bentinck Street and the Chitpur Road, occupies the site of the old pilgrim road to Kālī Ghāt; and its southern continuation, known as the Russa Road, is still the route for pilgrims visiting that shrine. Between this and the Lower Circular Road is a street running through the heart of the town, the various sections of which are called Wellesley Street, College Street and Cornwallis Street; and to the east of it the Lower Circular Road sweeps round the town, one section of it following the course of the old Marāthā ditch. These four main roads are linked by a number of cross streets, the most important of which are Park Street, passing through the European quarter and so called because it originally bordered the spacious garden of Sir Elijah Impey; Dhurumtolla Street, passing through a quarter largely inhabited by Eurasians; Lāl Bazar and its continuation Bow Bazar, in the centre of the native town, presenting a mass of densely packed houses and shops; Canning Street and Harrison Road named after Lord Canning and a former Chairman of the Corporation; and, to the north of the town, Sobhā Bazar and Grey Street. From Government House to Kidderpore two miles to the south, stretches the oldest road in the Maidān, known as the old Course and described in 1768 as being "out of town in a sort of angle made to take the air in"; to the north this road runs into Old Court House Street, so called from the Old Court House pulled down in 1792. Starting from Kidderpore the Garden Reach and Circular Garden Reach Roads connect the docks and the mills fringing the Hooghly with the main town, while to the south the Diamond Harbour Road links Calcutta with the harbour after which it is named.

Calcutta is connected with the important city of Howrah, on the west of the river, by several ferries and also by a floating bridge opened in 1874. This structure supported on pontoons is 1,530 feet in length between the abutments, and has a road-way for carriages 48 feet in width with footpaths of 7 feet on either side. The bridge is opened three times a week to allow ships to pass to the dockyards above, and while it is open, a ferry steamer plies across the river. Bridges over Tolly's Nullah at Kidderpore, Alipore and Kālī Ghāt connect the south-east portion of the present city with the old town. On the north the main roads converge at the Chitpur Bridge, by which the old Grand Trunk Road crosses the Circular Canals.

Lines of tramway run from the High Court to Tollygunge, Nimtolla Ghāt, and Sealdah, and from the Esplanade to Chitpur, Shām Bazar, Kidderpore and Belgāchia. These tramways have been recently electrified. There is a large suburban traffic along all the main lines of railway, and also on two small light railways from Howrah to Amtā and Sheakhala.

Civil and  
criminal  
justice.

In the "Old Town" civil justice is administered by a Judge of the High Court, who sits singly and tries cases above Rs. 2,000 in value and suits concerning land, and by the small cause court with 5 Judges who try suits up to Rs. 2,000 in value. In the "Added Area" a small cause court and 2 Munsifs' courts sit at Sealdah, and 3 Munsifs' courts at Alipore; these are subordinate to the District Judge of the 24 Parganas. Both the District Judge and Additional Judge of the 24 Parganas have jurisdiction in Calcutta under the Land Acquisition Act. Criminal justice is administered in the Old Town by 3 stipendiary, and a number of honorary, Presidency Magistrates. The High Court holds Criminal Sessions and hears appeals from the Presidency Magistrates. In the Added Area the Sessions Judge and District Magistrate of the 24 Parganas have criminal jurisdiction. Two stipendiary magistrates sit, one at Alipore and the other at Sealdah, and there are also several honorary magistrates. Throughout Calcutta cases under the Municipal Act are tried by a stipendiary municipal magistrate.

The Chief Presidency Magistrate is also the presiding officer in the court for the trial of pilots and Judge of the Court of Survey for the Port of Calcutta.

Revenue.

The revenue receipts under the main heads amounted in 1903-04 to 88.6 lakhs, of which Rs. 18,000 was derived from land revenue, 29.7 lakhs from stamps, 33.3 lakhs from excise and opium, and 25.4 lakhs from income-tax. The revenue receipts under the same heads in 1880-81, 1890-91 and 1900-01 were 33.5 lakhs, 61.4 lakhs and 80.1 lakhs respectively. In 1881 the income-tax had not been imposed.

The Collector of Calcutta, who is assisted by a Deputy Collector, is Collector of stamp revenue in the Old Town, and is Superintendent of excise revenue throughout Calcutta, and in the municipalities of Cossipore-Chitpur, Maniktala, Garden Reach, Howrah and Bally. He is also deputy collector of land revenue in the Old Town; and in this respect is subordinate to the Collector of the 24 Parganas, whose ordinary jurisdiction extends over the Added Area in all revenue matters except excise. There is a separate Collector of income-tax in the Old Town.

The stamp revenue of Calcutta has risen from 23 lakhs in 1892-93 to 29.7 lakhs in 1903-04, when 14.2 lakhs was realised from judicial and 15.5 lakhs from non-judicial stamps. During the same period the income-tax receipts rose from 17.22 to 25.4

lakhs, in spite of the exclusion from assessment in 1903 of incomes below Rs. 1,000, and excise from 25 to 33·3 lakhs. The main items under the latter head are imported liquor (1·5 lakhs), country spirit (19·4 lakhs), opium (4·9 lakhs), hemp drugs (4·3 lakhs), rum (2·3 lakhs) and *tāri* (Rs. 79,000).

In the Old Town there is, strictly speaking, no land revenue, as in 1758 the East India Company obtained from the Nawāb a free grant of the area on which Calcutta now stands. The so-called revenue is really ground-rent, which has been permanently fixed and amounts to Rs. 18,163. The Added Area belongs for revenue purposes to the 24-Parganas District. The tract east of Tolly's Nullah and the Lower Circular Road, which comprises Bhawānīpur, Ballygunge and Intally, is included in the PAACHANNAGRAM Government estate. West of Tolly's Nullah are ordinary permanently-settled estates belonging to private owners; a considerable area is, however, included in Government estate Sāhibān Bāgicha (see 24-PARGANAS).

The grand total realised by the Customs department in 1903-04 was 388 lakhs, to which salt contributed 197 lakhs, cotton piece-goods 49½ lakhs, mineral oil 17½ lakhs, liquor 22½ lakhs, articles of food and drink 12½ lakhs, countervailing duties on sugar ½ lakh, and arms and ammunition 1½ lakhs. The export duty on rice amounted to 15½ lakhs. Besides this, 26½ lakhs was paid into District treasuries on account of salt imported into Calcutta.

The municipal administration of the city is regulated by Bengal Act III of 1899, and is in the hands of three co-ordinate authorities, the Corporation, the General Committee and the Chairman. The Corporation consists of the Chairman, appointed by Government, and 50 commissioners, of whom 25 are elected at ward elections, and the remainder are appointed as follows, viz., 4 by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, 4 by the Calcutta Trades Association, 2 by the Port commissioners and 15 by the Bengal Government. The General Committee consists of 12 commissioners and the Chairman, who is President. Of the commissioners 4 are elected by the ward commissioners, 4 by the appointed commissioners, and the remaining 4 are appointed by the Local Government. The entire executive power is vested in the Chairman, to be exercised subject to the approval or sanction of the Corporation or General Committee, whenever this is expressly directed in the Act. To the Corporation are reserved the right of fixing the rates of taxation and all those general functions which can be efficiently performed by a large body. The General Committee stands between the deliberative and executive authorities, and deals with those matters which are ill-adapted for discussion by the whole Corporation, but yet are too important to be left to the disposal of the Chairman alone.



The Corporation thus constituted commenced work in April 1900, and its efforts have so far been mainly directed to the introduction of a continuous water-supply for the whole town, the completion of the drainage scheme, the decentralization of control and the punctual collection of the rates. The town has been divided into 4 districts, each with its own staff, for conservancy, roads and buildings. A large scheme for opening out the congested areas, with the assistance of Imperial funds, is under consideration.

Water-  
supply.

The drinking water-supply is obtained from the Hooghly river at Paltā, 17 miles north of Calcutta, where it is pumped up into settling tanks and filtered. The pure water is conveyed by gravitation through two iron mains to a masonry reservoir at the north end of the town. Thence it is pumped into the distributing mains and three other reservoirs in different quarters of the town, and from these it is again pumped into the distributing pipes. The scheme was inaugurated in 1860, and it was then intended to supply 6 million gallons per diem or 15 gallons per head. In recent years the works have been greatly extended, and the Corporation has now three pumping stations at Paltā and four in the town; there are 1,997 standposts and 5,904 ground hydrants, and the number of filtered water connections exceeds 26,000. These give to Calcutta and the adjacent towns of Barrackpore, Dum-Dum, Cossipore-Chitpur, Manikata and Garden Reach a daily supply of over 7,624 million gallons of filtered water, or  $21\frac{1}{2}$  gallons per head. The streets are watered and the drains flushed with unfiltered water pumped up in Calcutta, and for these purposes there are more than 3,500 connections. The initial cost of the works was 7 lakhs. Subsequent extensions have increased the capital cost to 210 lakhs; the annual cost of maintenance is  $16\frac{1}{2}$  lakhs.

Drainage.

The scheme of under-ground drainage, by which the town is freed of surplus water and of the filth which water will carry, was inaugurated half a century ago. The drainage is carried eastwards by a series of five parallel conduits which discharge into an intercepting sewer, and thence into a large well at Tongra in the eastern suburbs. There it is raised by steam pumps into a high-level sewer, which carries it to the Salt Water Lakes, east of the town, there to undergo oxidation. The original project was commenced in 1859, and took 16 years to complete, but meanwhile fresh additions had been found necessary, and these are still incomplete so far as the Added Area is concerned. The execution of the original scheme proved a very expensive undertaking and cost the municipality 95 lakhs, including a storm-water cut completed in 1883-84. The annual cost of maintenance amounts to Rs. 26,000.

Good progress has been made in lighting the town, especially in the southern area; oil lamps are being gradually replaced by gas; and the incandescent system has been extended throughout Calcutta. The Corporation have now 11,000 street lamps, of which 8,500 are gas lamps. A municipal railway conveys street refuse to the Salt Lakes.

The income of the Corporation has increased largely in recent years, but its expenditure has grown even more rapidly, and its indebtedness on the 31st March 1904 was nearly 327 lakhs, of which 179½ lakhs has been borrowed during the last decade. The chief item of receipt is the consolidated rate, which in the last 10 years has varied from 32 to 42 lakhs per annum. Next in importance are the license tax on trades and professions and the tax on animals and vehicles. The municipal market has also proved a source of profit to the Corporation. The average receipts and expenditure during the 10 years ending in 1903-04 are noted below:—

EXPENDITURE.	In thousands of rupees.	RECEIPTS.	- In thousands of rupees.
Rates and taxes . . . . .	46,52	General administration . . . . .	5,62
Realisation under special Acts . . . . .	46	Fire . . . . .	55
Other revenue apart from taxation . . . . .	4,54	Lighting . . . . .	4,50
Grants from Government . . . . .	52	Water-supply . . . . .	7,88
Other contributions . . . . .	9	Drainage . . . . .	7,55
Miscellaneous receipts including sale of water . . . . .	2,34	Public works . . . . .	9,77
Loans . . . . .	19,37	Markets . . . . .	98
Realization from sinking funds for repayment of loans . . . . .	1,05	Hospitals . . . . .	52
Advances . . . . .	7,20	Conservancy . . . . .	11,90
Deposits . . . . .	7,21	Registration of births and deaths . . . . .	14
		Grants to public institutions . . . . .	13
		Contribution for general purposes . . . . .	3
		Interest on loans . . . . .	11,83
		Miscellaneous . . . . .	3,52
		Repayment of loans and contribution to sinking funds . . . . .	8,56
		Advances . . . . .	7,12
		Deposits . . . . .	6,92
<b>TOTAL</b> . . . . .	<b>89,80</b>	<b>TOTAL</b> . . . . .	<b>87,62</b>

Calcutta possesses many fine buildings, both public and private. The original Government House occupied the site of the modern Public Customs Office. The erection of the present building was commenced in 1797 at the instance of the Marquis of Wellesley, who urged that "India should be governed from a palace not from a counting-house." It was completed in about 7 years at a cost of 13 lakhs. The design was based on that of Kedleston Hall in Derbyshire, the structure consisting of four great wings running to each point of the compass from a central pile approached by a magnificent flight of steps on the north. The Grand Hall is an exceptionally fine chamber, and the

building also contains the Council Chamber in which the Supreme Legislature holds its sittings. Various articles of furniture and trophies recall the perilous early days of the Company, having been captured from European or native powers. The two fine full-length portraits of Louis le Bien Aimé and of his Queen, with the chandeliers and twelve busts of the Cæsars in the aisles of the Marble Hall, are said to have been taken from a French ship.

Belvedere, in Alipore, is the official residence of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. Formerly a country house of Warren Hastings, it was purchased in 1854 as the residence of Sir Frederick Halliday, the first Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. It is a handsome edifice and stands in extensive and well-kept grounds. It was greatly improved and embellished by Sir Ashley Eden. At the spot which is now the west entrance of Belvedere, on the Alipore Road, was fought the famous duel between Warren Hastings and Sir Philip Francis, in which the latter was wounded. Not far from this spot is Hastings House, the favourite residence of the great Governor-General, which is now used as a guest-house for Native chiefs.

To the west of Government House, and nearer to the river, stands the High Court. This imposing structure in somewhat florid Gothic was completed in 1872, on the site of the old Supreme Court. The design is said to have been suggested by the Town Hall at Ypres. The Town Hall stands west of Government House, between it and the High Court. It is a large building in the Doric style, approached by a noble flight of steps leading up to the grand portico. It was built in 1804 at a cost of about 7 lakhs, and contains many interesting statues and portraits. The Indian Museum is situated in Chowringhee and contains a fine collection of fossils and minerals, a geological gallery and a gallery of antiquities. Adjoining it are the Economic Museum and the School of Art. The Mint in the north of the town covers 18½ acres, and was built in 1824-30. The style is Doric, the central portico being a copy in half size of the temple of Minerva at Athens. The Victoria Memorial Hall which it is proposed to erect in memory of the late Queen-Empress is now in course of construction at the south end of the Maidan near the Cathedral.

The General Post Office, opened in 1870, occupies a position in Dalhousie Square on the site of the old Fort. In the same square are Writers' Buildings, used for the offices of the Bengal Secretariat, the Central Telegraph Office, the Currency Office and the offices of the Commissioner of the Presidency Division and the Collector of Calcutta. The offices of the Indian Secretariat and the Treasury lie between Government House and the Town Hall, and the Foreign and Military Departments have recently transferred their offices to a handsome new building in the Esplanade. The

Survey Office occupies substantial quarters in Wood Street. The Bank of Bengal was incorporated as a Presidency Bank by Act XI of 1876 and has a fine building in the Strand erected in 1899. Hard by it is the Metcalfe Hall, occupied by the new Imperial Library. The Muhammanadan mosques and Hindu temples of Calcutta have no great architectural merit, the only mosque of any pretensions being the one at the corner of Dhurrumtolla Street which was built and endowed in 1842 by Prince Ghulam Muhammad, son of Tipu Sultan. Kali Ghât, in the south of the town, is a place of great sanctity for Hindus, and numbers go there every day to bathe in Tolly's Nullah. The temple, which is said to be about 300 years old, has 194 acres of land assigned for its maintenance.

The Cathedral Church of the See of Calcutta, St. Paul's, stands Churches. at the south-east corner of the Maidan. It was commenced in 1839 and consecrated in 1847, and it is practically the work of Bishop Wilson. Of the 7½ of lakhs raised to build and endow the Cathedral, the Bishop gave 2 lakhs, the East India Company 1½ of lakhs, and 2·8 lakhs was subscribed in England; only Rs. 1,20,000 was collected in India. It is built in a style which is known in Calcutta as Indo-Gothic, that is to say Gothic adapted by a military engineer to the exigencies of the Indian climate. The building is 217 feet in length with a transept of 114 feet, and the tower and spire are 207 feet in height. Among the many monuments to famous Englishmen who have served in this country, the most conspicuous is a life-sized kneeling figure in episcopal robes by Chantry bearing the single word "Heber." The spire was rebuilt in 1897, the original one having been destroyed in the earthquake of that year.

St. John's, the old Cathedral, was commenced in 1784. It was erected to replace the still older Church of St. Anne's, which occupied the site of the modern Bengal Council Chamber and was demolished by Siraj-ud-daula in 1756. St. John's was built chiefly by voluntary subscriptions, the site being the gift of a Rājā. In the graveyard is the mausoleum which covers the remains of Job Charnock; and slabs commemorating William Hamilton, who died in 1717, and Admiral Watson, are built into the walls of the Church. The old Mission Church has a peculiar interest as having been erected between 1767 and 1770 by Kiernander, the first Protestant Missionary to Bengal, at his own expenso. In 1786 the good Swede found himself unable to defray the charges involved by his benevolent schemes and the church was seized by the Sheriff. It was rescued and restored to religious purposes by Charles Grant, afterwards the well-known East Indian Director, who paid Rs. 10,000, the sum at which it was appraised. Other churches of the Anglican Communion are the Fort Church of St. Peter, St. Thomas',

St. Stephen's, Kidderpore, and St. James', besides several others belonging to missionary bodies.

The Roman Catholic Cathedral, situated in the heart of the commercial quarter, was built in 1797, taking the place of a chapel built by the Portuguese in 1700. The Greek Church in the same quarter was built by subscriptions in 1780, and the Armenian Church was completed in 1790. At the corner of Dalhousie Square on the site of the old Mayor's Court House stands the Scots Church of St. Andrew.

Squares  
and open  
spaces.

The Maidan is the chief open space in Calcutta and stretches from Government House and the Eden Gardens on the north to Tolly's Nullah on the south, Chowringhee lying on the east, and the river and Fort on the west. Scattered over it are several monuments, the most conspicuous of them being the Ochterlony Monument, erected in honour of Sir David Ochterlony, who, "for 50 years a soldier, served in every Indian war from the time of Hyder downwards." It rises 165 feet with a sarasenic capital, and its summit commands a noble view of the city. Facing the river is a pillared archway erected by the citizens of Calcutta to perpetuate the memory of James Prinsep, founder of the science of Indian numismatics. Near Park Street is the fine bronze statue of Sir James Outram, in which he is represented with drawn sword looking round to his troops and cheering them forward. Among other monuments may be mentioned those of Lord William Bentinck, Lord Hardinge, Lord Mayo, Lord Lawrence, Lord Dufferin and Lord Lansdowne; and the statue to Lord Roberts is a noteworthy addition to this group. A statue of Her late Majesty Queen Victoria by Frampton has recently been placed on the Maidan, waiting till it may find a more honoured position in the Hall now being erected in her memory. On the south-west side of the Maidan is the race-course, while the rest of it is devoted to recreation grounds.

Other open spaces are the Eden Gardens, named after the Misses Eden, sisters of Lord Auckland, on the north-east of the Maidan, Dalhousie Square in the heart of the official quarter, Beadon Square in the north of the town, named after a Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, and a series of squares by the side of Cornwallis, College, Wellington and Wellesley Streets. The Zoological Gardens at Alipore were opened by the (then) Prince of Wales in 1876. They are managed by an honorary Committee and are maintained chiefly by donations and subscriptions, entrance receipts and a Government grant-in-aid. The expenditure in 1903-04 amounted to Rs. 87,000, of which Rs. 42,000 was spent on new buildings. The Government of India has made a grant of a lakh of rupees, which it has been decided to devote mainly to permanent improvements. The gardens contain (1903-04) 464 mammals, 842 birds and 238 reptiles.

At Sibpur are situated the Botanical Gardens, which are beautifully laid out along the Hooghly and are stocked with rare tropical plants. They were founded in 1786 at the instance of Colonel Alexander Kyd for the collection of plants indigenous to the country and for the introduction and acclimatisation of plants from foreign parts. This object has been fully realised, and among the greatest triumphs of the gardens may be mentioned the introduction of the tea plant from China. They cover 272 acres and contain a fine herbarium, botanical library and monuments to the first two Superintendents, Kyd and Roxburgh.

Fort William is included in the Lucknow division of the Army. Eastern Command. The garrison consists of a battalion of British infantry, a battery of garrison artillery, a company of the Indian Sub-Marine Mining Corps, and a regiment of native infantry in the Fort, and half a squadron of native cavalry and a regiment of native infantry at Alipore. The Volunteer forces are (1) the Calcutta Port Defence Volunteers in five companies, two being naval divisions, one of garrison artillery, one of sub-marine miners and one of electrical engineers, with a strength in 1903-04 of 333; (2) the Calcutta Light Horse, in 5 troops, strength 187; (3) the Cossipore Artillery with 4 batteries, 6 guns, strength 428; (4) the Calcutta Volunteer Rifles with 3 battalions (of which the third is a cadet company), and a strength of 2,075, including cadets and reservists; and (5) the Eastern Bengal State Railway Volunteers, strength 728. The military authorities have control over the erection of buildings on the Maidān and in the Hastings ward, which lies to the south of Fort William.

The Calcutta police force is under a Commissioner, a Deputy Commissioner and additional Deputy Commissioner of Police, and consists of 8 Superintendents, 55 inspectors, 74 sub-inspectors and European constables, 291 head-constables and sergeants, including mounted men, 2,484 foot constables and 130 river constables. It has under its control, besides the municipal area, the suburban municipalities of Cossipore-Chitpur, Māniktala, part of Garden Reach and the river. There are 18 police-stations in the Old Town and 14 in the Added Area and in the suburbs. The total cost of the force in 1901 was 8·66 lakhs, of which 8·15 lakhs was paid from Imperial and Provincial revenues, and the rest by local bodies and private individuals for services rendered. The proportion of police to population was 1 to 405 persons and to area 76 per square mile. Besides ordinary police duties, the Commissioner is responsible for the working of the Arms Act and the Fire-Brigade. The latter consists of one chief engineer, 4 engineers, one European and 4 native drivers, 3 firemen, 16 tindals, 84 khalāsīs, and 1 inspector of warehouses. The force is equipped with 6 steam engines and 6 manual engines, and is paid for partly by

fees levied on jute and other warehouses and partly by certain municipalities. The number of fires reported in 1903 in the town and suburbs, including Howrah, was 120, of which 7 only were serious. The Port commissioners maintain their own boats and staff for fires on the river.

Until 1845, there does not appear to have been any disciplined force, the only police being a number of *thānādars* and peons for night duty, but in that year the town was divided into 3 police divisions, each containing a police-station with 6 sub-stations. In 1852 the number of divisions was reduced to 2, and in 1877 the present divisions and *thānas* were created. By Act XIII of 1856 a Commissioner of Police was appointed, and in 1868 the detective branch was constituted. In 1861 the suburban police was made over to the Commissioner's control, Bengal Act II of 1866 being passed for the purpose. Until 1889 the Chairman of the Calcutta Corporation was also Commissioner of Police, but in that year the appointments were separated.

#### Jails.

The Presidency jail on the south of the Maidan contains accommodation for 70 European and 1,214 native prisoners, the average number of prisoners during the year 1903 being 1,299. The chief industry is the printing of Government forms, and the printing work done during 1903 was valued at 1·77 lakhs; minor industries are the manufacture of mustard oil, wheat grinding and carpentry. It is intended to transfer this jail to another site in Alipore, where new buildings are being erected for the purpose. There are also a District and Central jail and a Reformatory School at Alipore, and a Criminal Lunatic Asylum at Dullunda.

#### Education.

At the census of 1901, 24·8 per cent of the total population (20·9 males and 31·8 females) were returned as literate. The percentage for Christians was 75·9, for Hindus 26·5 and for Muhammadans 12·2.

The University of Calcutta exerts, by means of the examinations for its degrees, paramount influence over English education throughout Bengal. The University building is situated in College Street, and it contains a library adorned with paintings of some of the more famous persons who have been at various times connected with the University.

The higher colleges in Calcutta are the Presidency, the Doreton, La Martinière, the Free Church Institution and Duff college, the London Missionary Society's Institution, the Sanskrit college, Bishop's college, St. Xavier's, the General Assembly's Institution, the Metropolitan Institution, the City, Ripon, Central and Bangabasi colleges for men, and the Bethune college for women. Of these the Presidency, the Sanskrit and the Bethune colleges are Government institutions; the first was founded in 1855 and

the second in 1824; the third was founded in 1849 by the Hon'ble Mr. Bethune, and maintained by him till his death in 1851. It was then maintained by Lord Dalhousie until 1856, and from that date by the Government. The Doveton college was first opened in 1823 for the education of Christian boys under the name of the Parental Academic Institution, but it was subsequently called after Captain J. Doveton, who gave it an endowment of 2·3 lakhs. La Martinière was founded by General Claud Martin, and was opened in 1836. Bishop's college was founded by Bishop Middleton in 1820, and was at first located at Sibpur on the site now occupied by the Civil Engineering college. The college of the Scots Church was founded in 1830 and St. Xavier's in 1860. The second grade colleges are the Madrasa, the Albert college, the Armenian college and the Church Missionary college. The Madrasa (for Muhammadans only) was founded and endowed by Warren Hastings in 1781; in 1873 it received additional funds from the Hooghly Muhammadan Educational Endowment, and it is also assisted by Government. The Armenian college was opened in 1821, and is managed by trustees. The Sibpur college for Engineering (see HOWRAH town) is situated in the Howrah District, opposite Kidderpore, and was opened by Government in 1880.

Calcutta contains 75 schools teaching up to the standard for the entrance examination of the University, and a large number of primary schools. The oldest Christian school is the Calcutta Free School, which was founded in 1789 from the united funds of the Old Calcutta Charity and the Free School Society, which then amounted to 3 lakhs.

The Calcutta Medical college is a Government institution, which was opened in 1835 and had 519 pupils in 1903-04; there are also four private medical schools with 454 pupils. Of the latter the oldest is the Calcutta Medical school to which the Albert Victor Hospital has lately been attached.

The two most important hostels under Government management are the Eden Hindu hostel and the Elliott Madrasa hostel. The former is intended chiefly for the accommodation of such Hindu pupils of the Presidency college and of the Hindu and Hare schools as do not live with their parents or guardians; the latter is for Muhammadans studying at the Calcutta Madrasa who have no parents or guardians to live with. In 1903-04 the number of inmates in the Eden hostel was 247 and in the Elliott hostel 222. The total expenditure of the former amounted to Rs. 30,000 and that of the latter, exclusive of messing charges, to Rs. 4,500. Out of this Government paid Rs. 700 and Rs. 1,400 respectively, chiefly for medical attendance and superintendence. The average cost of a student was Rs. 10 per month per head in the former and a little over Rs. 3 in the latter.



The Government School of Art attached to the Government Art Gallery was attended by 241 pupils in 1903-04. An aided industrial school was attended by 47 pupils, and 3 unaided schools of Art taught 182 pupils. Besides, there were 2 schools for the blind and a deaf and dumb school. There were 4 training schools for mistresses in 1900-01, and one normal school for the training of school-masters. In addition to the Bethune college there were 6 other higher class female institutions in Calcutta.

The total number of pupils under instruction increased from 25,124 in 1883 to 40,724 in 1892-93 and 43,979 in 1900-01, while 39,524 boys and 8,277 girls were at school in 1903-04, being respectively 46·8 and 19·3 per cent. of the number of school-going age. The number of educational institutions, public and private, in that year was 631 including 20 Arts colleges, 69 secondary schools, 311 primary schools and 131 other special schools. The expenditure on education was 18·06 lakhs, of which 6·22 lakhs was met from Provincial funds, Rs. 11,000 from municipal funds and 8·16 lakhs from fees.

News-  
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periodi-  
cals.

Calcutta has four daily newspapers owned and edited by Englishmen, viz., the *Englishman*, the *Indian Daily News*, the *Statesman* and the *Empire*, the latter being an evening newspaper which has recently (1906) been started. The number of other journals and magazines under European management is not large, but includes a fortnightly illustrated paper, a weekly paper dealing with finance and commerce, an illustrated engineering journal and three weekly papers devoted to sport. Other periodicals deal with religious subjects, the interests of planters and volunteers, medicine, railways, horticulture, and literary and general matters; one of the latter, the *Calcutta Review*, is an old established publication of some repute. There are also 5 daily newspapers published in English, but owned and edited by natives, viz., the *Bengalee*, *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, *Indian Mirror*, *Hindoo Patriot* and *Bande Mataram*. No less than 23 vernacular papers are published in Calcutta, but few of these are daily journals or are of any great importance; the most influential are the *Hitabadi*, the *Basumati* and the *Bangabasi*, all weekly papers.

Medical.

The chief hospitals are the Medical College, Eden, Ezra, Syama Charan Law Eyo, Presidency General, Campbell, Police, Sambhu Nath Pandit and Dufferin Victoria Hospitals, the Mayo Native Hospital with 3 dispensaries and the Chandney Hospital attached to it, and the Kaddorporo Municipal and Dockyard Dispensaries. Of these, the Dufferin Victoria Hospital and the Eden Hospital are for women only. The Medical College Hospital was originally started in 1838 with only 30 beds. It was very largely attended and, the accommodation having soon been found quite insufficient, an enlarged building was opened on

the present site in 1852. The Eden or lying-in Hospital, the Ezra Hospital for Jews and the Eye Infirmary were subsequently added to it. The Presidency General Hospital for Europeans dates from about the middle of the 18th century. The central block was purchased by Government in 1768, and two wings were added in 1795. The foundation-stone of a new block was laid in 1898. This is one of the best hospitals in India; it contains accommodation for 233 patients, and has been provided with all modern requirements and conveniences. The Campbell Hospital, started in 1867, is the largest hospital in India and has accommodation for 752 patients. The Police Hospital with a capacity of 211 beds was opened in 1866 for the treatment of the members of the Calcutta police. The Mayo Native Hospital, the successor of the old Chandney Hospital, contains 105 beds and was opened in 1874. The number of patients treated in these institutions during the year 1903 was 274,000, of whom 25,000 were in-door and 248,000 out-door patients. Of these 163,000 were men, 51,000 women and 59,000 children. These charities are mainly dependent on Government for their support. In 1903, out of a total income of 9.15 lakhs Government gave 6.39 lakhs; 1 lakh was supplied from local funds; the Corporation contributed Rs. 46,000; interest on investments amounted to Rs. 25,000; while only Rs. 7,000 was subscribed, the balance being made up from fees from paying patients. There are also two Lunatic Asylums entirely under Government control, while a Leper Asylum has lately been erected.

Vaccination is compulsory, and is controlled by the Health department of the Corporation. In 1903-04, 22,492 persons were vaccinated.

[Census Reports; E. H. Busteed, *Sketches from Old Calcutta*, Calcutta, 1888; R. B. Hyde, *Parochial Annals of Bengal*, Calcutta, 1901; A. K. Ray, *History of Calcutta*, Calcutta, 1902; S. O. Hill, *Bengal in 1756-57*, 1905; C. R. Wilson, *Old Fort William in Bengal*, 1906.]

Nadia District.—District in the Presidency Division, Bengal, lying between 22° 53' and 24° 11' N., and 88° 9' and 89° 22' E., with an area of 2,793 square miles. It is bounded on the west by the Bhāgirathi, or Hooghly river; and on the south by the 24-Pārganas; on the north the Jalangi river separates it from Murshidābād and the Padmā or Ganges river from Rājshāhi and Pāna; the Farīdpur and Jessore Districts form the eastern boundary.

Nadia is situated at the head of the Gangetic delta, and its alluvial surface, though still liable in parts to inundation, has been raised by ancient deposits of silt above the normal flood-level; its soil is agriculturally classed as high land, and bears cold-weather crops as well as rice. The rivers have now ceased their work of land-making and are beginning to silt up. The

general aspect is that of a vast level alluvial plain, dotted with villages and clusters of trees, and intersected by numerous rivers, back-waters, minor streams and swamps. In the west of the District is the Kālāntar, a low-lying tract of black clay soil which stretches from the adjoining part of Murehidadib through the Kāliganj and Tehāta thānas.

Along the northern boundary flows the wide stream of the PADMA. This is now the main channel of the Ganges, which has taken this course in comparatively recent times; it originally flowed down the Bhāgirathi, still the sacred river in the estimation of Hindus, and it afterwards probably followed in turn the course of the Jalangi and the Mātābhānga before it eventually took its present direction, flowing almost due east to meet the Brahmaputra near Goalundo. The rivers which intersect the District are thus either old beds of the Ganges or earlier streams, like the Bhairab, which carried the drainage of the Darjeeling Himalayas direct to the sea before the Padma broke eastwards and cut them in halves. The whole District is a network of moribund rivers and streams, but the BHAGIRATHI, the JALANGI and the MATABHANGA are the three which are called distinctively the "Nadia Rivers." The Jalangi flows past the head-quarters station of Krishnagar, and falls into the Bhāgirathi opposite the old town of Nadiā. Its chief tributary is the Bhairab. The Mātābhānga, after throwing off the Pāngāsi, the Kumār and the Kabadak, bifurcates near Krishnaganj into the Churni and Lohāmatī, and thereafter loses its own name. Marshes abound.

**Geology.** The surface consists of sandy clay and sand along the course of the rivers, and fine silt consolidating into clay in the flatter parts of the river plain.

**Botany.** The swamps afford a foothold for numerous marsh species, while the ponds and ditches are filled with submerged and floating water-plants. The edges of sluggish creeks are lined with large sedges and bulrushes, and the banks of rivers have a hedge-like shrub jungle. Deserted or uncultivated homestead lands are densely covered with villago shrubberies of semi-spontaneous species, interspersed with clumps of planted bamboos and groves of *Areca*, *Moringa*, *Mangifera* and *Annona*, and the slopes of embankments are often well wooded.

**Fauna.** Wild hogs are plentiful, and saips abound in the swamps. There are still a few leopards, and wild duck are found in the *jhils* near the Padmā. Snakes are common and account for some 400 deaths annually; about 90 more are caused by wild animals, chiefly jackals, which carry off young children.

**Climate and temperature.** The mean temperature for the year is 79° and it ranges between 69° and 88°. The mean minimum varies from 52° in January to 79° in June, and the mean maximum from 77° in

December to 97° in May. The average humidity is 79 per cent. of saturation, varying from 71 per cent. in March to 87 per cent. in August. The average rainfall is 57 inches, of which 6·5 inches fall in May, 9·7 in June, 10·5 in July, 11·3 in August, 8·1 in September and 4·1 in October.

Floods occur frequently and cause much damage, the area specially liable to injury being a low-lying strip of land, about 10 miles wide, running in a south-easterly direction across the centre of the District. It is said that this is swept by the floods of the Bhāgirathi, whenever the great Lalitākuri embankment in the Murahidābād District gives way, but it is on record that the breaking of this embankment has not always been followed by a rise of the flood-level in Nadiā.

The town of Nadiā or NABADWIP (meaning new island), from which the District takes its name, has a very ancient history, and about the time of William the Conqueror the capital of the Sen kings of Bengal was transferred thither from Gaur. In 1203 Lakshman Sen, the last of the dynasty, was overthrown by the Muhammadan freebooter Muhammad-i-Bahtiyār Khilji, who took the capital by surprise and subsequently conquered the greater part of Bengal proper. No reliable information is on record about the District until 1582, when the greater part of it was included at Todar Mal's settlement in *sarkār* Satgaon, so called from the old trade emporium of that name, near the modern town of Hooghly. At that time it was thinly inhabited, but its pandits were conspicuous for their learning. The present Mahārāja of Nadiā is a Brāhman and has no connection with Lakshman Sen's dynasty; his family, however, claims to be of great antiquity and sanctity, and traces its descent in a direct line from Bhattanārāyan, the chief of the five Brāhmans who were imported from Kanauj, in the ninth century by Adisur, king of Bengal. At the end of the 16th century a Rājā of this family assisted the Mughal general, Mān Singh, in his expedition against Pratāpāditya, the rebellious Rājā of Jessore, and subsequently obtained a grant of 14 *parganas* from Jahāngir as a reward for his services. The family appears to have reached the zenith of its power and influence in the middle of the 18th century, when Mahārāja Krishna Ohandra took the side of the English in the Plassey campaign and received from Lord Clive the title of Rājendra Bahādur and a present of 12 guns used at Plassey, some of which are still to be seen in the palace.

The Nadiā District was the principal scene of the indigo riots of 1860 which occasioned so much excitement throughout Bengal proper. The native land-owners had always been jealous of the influence of the European planters, but the real cause of the outbreak was the fact that the cultivators realised that at the prices then ruling it would pay them better to grow oilseeds

and cereals than indigo. Their discontent was fanned by interested agitators, and at last they refused to grow indigo. The endeavours made by the planters to compel them to do so led to serious rioting, which was not suppressed until the troops were called out. A commission was appointed to enquire into the relations between the planters and the cultivators, and matters gradually settled down, but a fatal blow had been dealt to indigo cultivation in the District, from which it never altogether recovered. A number of factories survived the agitation, and some still continue to work, but the competition of synthetic indigo has reduced the price of the natural dye to such an extent that the proprietors are finding it more profitable to give up indigo and to manage their estates as ordinary zamindars.

The  
people.

The population of the present area increased from 1,500,397 in 1872 to 1,662,795 in 1881. Since that date it has been almost stationary, having fallen to 1,614,108 in 1891, and risen again to 1,667,491 in 1901. From 1857 to 1864 the District was scourged by the "Nadia fever," which caused a fearful mortality, especially in the old jungle-surrounded and tank-infested villages of the Rānāghāt sub-division. There are no statistics to show the actual loss of life, but it is known that in some parts whole villages were depopulated. There was a recrudescence of the disease in 1881-86, which caused the loss of population recorded at the census of 1891. Nadia is still one of the most unhealthy parts of Bengal, and in 1902 the deaths ascribed to fevers amounted to no less than 41 per mille of the population. In 1881 a Special Commission ascribed the repeated outbreaks of malaria to the silting up of the rivers, which had become "chains of stagnant pools and hot-beds of pestilence in the dry season." Fevers accounted for no less than 82 per cent. of the deaths in 1901, as compared with the Provincial average of 70 per cent. Cholera comes next and is responsible for 4 per cent. of the mortality.

The principal statistics of the census of 1901 are exhibited below:—

SUB-DIVISION.	Area in square miles.	NUMBER OF		Population.	Population per square mile.	Percentage of variation in population between 1891 and 1901.	Number of persons able to read and write.
		Towns.	Villages.				
Krishnagar ... ..	701	2	740	361,333	515	+3.3	23,781
Rānāghāt ... ..	427	4	668	217,077	509	—5.6	16,705
Kushia ... ..	550	1	1,011	456,368	816	+0.7	23,713
Meherpur ... ..	632	1	607	319,121	531	+3.4	13,875
Chunāānga ... ..	437	...	484	254,389	583	+5.7	10,267
DISTRICT TOTAL ...	2,703	9	3,417	1,667,491	607	+7.4	63,375

The principal towns are KRISHNAGAR, the head-quarters, SANTIPUR, NABADWIP or Nadiā, KUSHTIA, RANAGHAT and MEHERPUR. The Kushtia sub-division is by far the most populous portion of the District. The low density elsewhere is due to the silting up of the rivers, which has obstructed the drainage and caused long-continued unhealthiness. The soil also has lost much of its fertility, now that it is no longer enriched by annual deposits of silt. The material condition of the District is less satisfactory than that of its neighbours, and it loses 65,000 persons by migration, chiefly to the neighbouring Districts and to Calcutta. Owing to this cause the District contains 1,015 females to every 1,000 males. The prevalent language is Bengali, which is spoken with remarkable purity by the educated classes. Muhammadans number 982,987 or 59 per cent. of the population, and Hindus 676,391 or 40·6 per cent.; the preponderance of the former is most marked in the eastern part of the District and especially in the Kushtia sub-division. It is a curious circumstance that whereas Muhammadans form the majority of the whole population, they are in a very considerable minority in the towns, where they only form 26·3 per cent. of the population. Of the Muhammadans large numbers belong to the puritanic sect of Farāzis or Wahābis, and the fanatic leader, Titu Mian, an account of whose rebellion in 1831 will be found in the article on the 24-PARGANAS, recruited many of his followers in Nadiā.

The Kaibarttas (111,000), the great race caste of Midnapore, are by far the most numerous caste in the District, and they are followed by the Goālās (cowherds) who number 71,000. The Brāhmans (47,000) are to a great extent the descendants of settlers in the time of the Sen kings. Next in numerical importance come the low-caste Bāgdīs, Muchīs, and Chandāls. Kāyasthas number 31,000, and there are 26,000 Mālos or boatmen. Of every 100 persons in the District, 56 are engaged in agriculture, 16 in industry, 1 in commerce, and 2 in one or other of the professions, and 17 on general labour. This District was the birth-place, in 1485, of the great religious reformer Chaitanya who founded the modern Vaishnava sect of Bengal. He was opposed to caste distinctions, and inveighed against animal sacrifices and the use of animal food and stimulants, and taught that the true road to salvation lay in *bhakti* or devotion to God. A favourite form of worship with this sect is the *sankīrtan*, or hymn-singing procession, which has gained greatly in popularity of late years. The town of Santipur, in the Rānaghāt sub-division, is held sacred as the residence of the descendants of Advaita, one of the two first disciples of Chaitanya. Most of his followers, while accepting his religious views, maintain

Their  
castes and  
occupa-  
tions.

their original caste distinctions, but a small minority abandoned them and agreed to admit to their community recruits from all castes and religions. These persons are known as Baishnabs or Bairāgis. At the present day most of their new adherents join them because they have been turned out of their own castes, or on account of love intrigues or other sordid motives, and they hold a very low position in popular estimation. A large proportion of the men live by begging, and many of the women by prostitution.

Among the latter-day offshoots of Chaitanya's teaching, one of the most interesting is the sect of Kartābhajās, the worshippers of the Kartā or headman. The founder of the sect was a Sadgop by caste, named Rām Saran Pāl, generally known as Kartā Bābā, who was born about two centuries ago near Ohākdaha in this District, and died at Ghoshpāra. This sect accepts recruits of all castes and religions, and its votaries assemble periodically at Ghoshpāra to pay homage to their spiritual head.

Christian  
Missions.

Christians number 8,091, of whom 7,912 are natives. The Church of England possesses 5,836 adherents, and the Roman Catholic Church 2,172. The Church Missionary Society commenced work in 1831, and has 13 centres presided over by native clergy or catechists, and superintended by 6 or 7 Europeans. The Roman Catholic Mission was established in 1855, and Krishnagar is now the head-quarters of the diocese of Central Bengal. In 1877 there was a schism among the adherents of the Church Missionary Society, and a number of them went over to the Church of Rome. The Church of England Zamāna Mission works at Krishnagar and at Ratanpur, and a Medical Mission at Ranaghat.

General  
agricul-  
tural  
conditions  
and prin-  
cipal  
crops.

We have already seen that Nadia is not a fertile District. In most parts the soil is sandy, and will not retain the water necessary for the cultivation of winter rice, which is grown only in the Kālāntar and parts of the Kushlia sub-division, and occupies but one-ninth of the gross cropped area. The land has often to be left fallow to enable it to recover some degree of fertility. A very large number of the cultivators are mere tenants-at-will and have little inducement to improve their lands, and the repeated outbreaks of malaria have deprived them of vitality and energy. The dead level of the surface affords little opportunity for irrigation, which is rarely attempted. The total area under cultivation in 1903-04 was 901 square miles, the land classed as culturable waste amounting to 544 square miles. Separate statistics for the sub-divisions are not available.

The staple crop is rice, grown on 775 square miles, or 86 per cent. of the net cropped area. The autumn crop is the most important; it occupies about 607 square miles and is usually reaped in August and September, but there is a late variety which

is harvested about two months later. The winter crop is reaped in December, and the spring rice in March or April. The winter and spring crops are transplanted, but the autumn rice is generally sown broadcast. After rice, the most important crops are gram and other pulses, linseed, jute, rape and mustard, wheat, indigo and sugarcane. The cultivation of indigo is contracting, and only 6,300 acres were sown in 1903-04. After the autumn rice is harvested, cold-weather crops of pulses, oilseeds and wheat are grown on the same fields, and 79 per cent. of the cultivated area grows two crops. The rice grown in the District is insufficient to satisfy the local demand. In some parts, especially in the sub-division of Chuadanga, the cultivation of chillies (*Capsicum frutescens*) and turmeric forms an important feature in the rural industry, and the peasant relies upon it to pay his rent.

Cultivation is extending, but no improvement has taken place in agricultural methods. The manuring practised is insufficient to restore to the soil what the crops take from it, and it is steadily deteriorating. Very little advantage has been taken of the Land Improvements and Agriculturists' Loans Acts. Improvements in agricultural practice.

The local cattle are very inferior; the pasturage is bad, and no care is taken to improve the breeds by selection or otherwise.

Santipur was once famous for its weavers, and in the beginning of the 19th century the agent of the East India Company used to purchase muslins to the annual value of £150,000. The industry, however, has almost died out. Very little muslin is now exported, and even the weaving of ordinary cotton cloth is on the decline. Sugar-refining by European methods has proved unsuccessful, but there are several date-sugar refineries in native hands at Santipur, Munshiganj and Alamdanga. Brass-ware is manufactured, particularly at Nadiā and Mcherpur, and clay figures are moulded at Krishnagar; the latter find a ready sale outside the District and have met with recognition at exhibitions abroad. There is a factory at Kustia under European management for the manufacture of sugarcane mills. Arts and manufactures.

Owing to its numerous waterways, the District is very favourably situated for trade. Moreover the Eastern Bengal State Railway runs through it for a distance of nearly 100 miles. Gram, pulses, jute, linseed and chillies are exported to Calcutta, and sugar to Eastern Bengal. Coal is imported from Burdwan and Mānbhūm, salt, oil and piece-goods from Calcutta, and rice and paddy from Burdwan, Dinājpur, Bogra and Jessore. Commerce.

The chief railway trade centres are Chuadanga, Bagulā, Rānāghāt, Dāmukdia and Porādaha, and those of river traffic, Nabadiwip on the Bhāgirathi, Santipur and Chākdaha on the Hooghly, Karimpur, Andulia, Krishnagar and Swarūpganj on the Jalangi, Hānskhālī on the Churni, Boaliā and Krishnaganj on



the Mātābhānga, Nonāganj on the Ichāmuti, Alamdānga on the Pāngāsi, and Kushtia, Kumārkhālī and Khoksa on the Garai. About 38 fairs are held yearly. Most of them, however, are religious gatherings; the best attended are the fairs held at Nadia in February and November, at Santipur in November, at Kulia in January, and at Ghoshpāra in March.

Railways  
and roads.

The Eastern Bengal State Railway (broad gauge) passes through the District from Kānchrapāra on the southern, to Dāmukdia on the northern, boundary, and a branch runs east from Porādaha, through Kushtia, to Gorlundo in the Faridpur District. The central section of the same railway runs from Rānāghāt eastwards to Jessore, and a light railway (2' 6" gauge) runs from Rānāghāt to Krishnagar *via* Santipur. A new line is being constructed from Rānāghāt to Murshidābād.

The District board maintains 803 miles of roads, in addition to 526 miles of village tracks. Of the roads, 107 miles are metalled, including the roads from Krishnagar to Bagulā and Rānāghāt, from Meherpur to Ohnādānga, and several others which serve as feeders to the railway. Of the unmetalled roads the most important is the road from Bārkāt in the 24-Parganas through Rānāghāt and Krishnagar to Plassey in the north-west corner of the District.

Water  
communication.

All the rivers are navigable in the rainy season by boats of large burthen, but in the dry season they dwindle to shallow streams and are obstructed by sand-banks and bars. Before the era of railways the NADIA RIVERS afforded the regular means of communication between the upper valley of the Ganges and the sea-board, and elaborate measures are still adopted to keep their channels open. Steamers ply daily between Calcutta and Kalna *via* Santipur, and on alternate days, during the rains, between Kalna and Murshidābād *via* Nabadwip. Numerous steamers pass up and down the Padmā, and a steam ferry crosses that river from Kushtia to Pāna.

Famines.

Nadia suffered severely in the great famine of 1772. The worst famines of recent times were those of 1865 and 1896. On the former occasion relief from Government and private funds was necessary from April to October; 601,000 persons were gratuitously relieved, and 337,000 were employed on relief works. The famine of 1896 affected about two-fifths of the District including the Kālāntar, the Meherpur sub-division and the western portions of the Kushtia and Ohnādānga sub-divisions. The grant of relief continued from November 1896 until September 1897, the total expenditure from public funds being 64 lakhs. The daily average number of persons employed on relief works was 3,913. In July 1897 the average rose to 25,500 persons, and gratuitous relief was afforded daily to an average of 33,000 persons.

For general administrative purposes Nadia is divided into 5 District sub-divisions with head-quarters at KRISHNAGAR, KUSHTIA, RANAGHAT, MEHERPUR and CHUADANGA. The District Magistrate is assisted at head-quarters by a staff of 5 Deputy Magistrate-Collectors, one of whom is solely employed on land acquisition work. The Meherpur sub-division is in charge of an Assistant Magistrate-Collector, while the other sub-divisional officers are Deputy Magistrate-Collectors. District sub-divisions and staff.

For the disposal of civil work the staff subordinate to the District and Sessions Judge consists of a Sub-Judge and 2 Munsifs at Krishnagar, 2 Munsifs at Kushtia and one each at Meherpur, Chuadanga and Ranaghāt. The stipendiary criminal courts are those of the District and Sessions Judge, the District Magistrate, 4 deputy magistrates at Krishnagar, and the sub-divisional officers in the other sub-divisions. No class of crime is now specially prevalent, but at the beginning of the 19th century the District was notorious for dacoity and rioting. Civil and criminal justice.

The current land revenue demand for 1903-04 was 9·1 lakhs Land due from 2,492 estates. Of these 2,216 with a revenue of 8·14 lakhs are permanently settled, 246 estates paying Rs. 73,000 are temporarily settled, and 30 estates paying Rs. 22,000 are managed direct by the Collector. In addition, there are 299 revenue-free estates and 9,169 rent-free lands, which pay road and public works cesses. The gross rental of the District has been returned by the proprietors and tenure-holders at 34 lakhs, and of this sum the Government revenue demand represents 26·7 per cent. The incidence of the land revenue is R. 0·15-3 per acre on the cultivated area. Land revenue.

The *utbandi* tenure is not peculiar to Nadia, but is especially common in this District, where about 65 per cent. of the cultivated land is held under it. The tenant pays rent only for the land he cultivates each year, and he cannot acquire occupancy rights unless he tills the same land for twelve years consecutively, which in fact he rarely does. Meanwhile the landlord can raise the rent at his pleasure, and if the tenant refuses to pay, he can be ejected. This tenure deprives the tenant of any incentive to improve his lands, and at the same time encourages rack-renting. It appears, however, to be gradually giving way to the ordinary system. Where the tenants have occupancy rights the rent of rice land ranges from R. 1·4 to Rs. 4·8 an acre; garden land is rented at about Rs. 11 an acre, and land under special crops, such as oilies and sugarcane, at Rs. 7·8 or even more. Lands leased under the *utbandi* system pay higher rents, as much as Rs. 12 to Rs. 23 being paid per acre, as compared with R. 1 to Rs. 2·9 for similar lands held on long leases.

The following table shows the collections of land revenue and of total revenue, under the principal heads, in thousands of rupees:—

		1880-81*.	1890-91.	1900-01.	1903-04.
Land revenue	...	10,38	9,50	9,10	9,04
Total revenue	...	16,68	14,93	16,68	17,10

\* In 1880-81 the District included the subdivision of Baranagar, which was subsequently transferred to Jessore.

Local and municipal government. Outside the 9 towns which enjoy municipal government, local affairs are managed by a District board with 5 sub-divisional local boards. The income of the District board in 1903-04 was Rs. 1,89,000, of which Rs. 90,000 was derived from rates, and the expenditure was Rs. 1,42,000, including Rs. 74,000 spent on civil works and Rs. 42,000 on education.

Police and jails. The District contains 21 police-stations and 13 outposts. In 1903 the force at the disposal of the District Superintendent consisted of 5 inspectors, 48 sub-inspectors, 47 head-constables and 627 constables, maintained at a cost of Rs. 1,38,000. There is one policeman to every 5·4 square miles and to 3,231 persons, a much larger proportion than the average for the whole of Bengal. Besides this, there are 3,990 village *chaukidars* under 317 *daffadars*.

The District jail at Krishnagar has accommodation for 216 prisoners, and subsidiary jails at each of the other sub-divisional head-quarters for 61.

Education. Nadia, in spite of its proximity to Calcutta, is not specially remarkable for the diffusion of the rudiments of learning. In 1901 the proportion of literate persons was 5·6 per cent. (10·1 males and 0·9 females). The total number of pupils under instruction increased from about 20,000 in 1883 to 29,364 in 1892-93 and 31,102 in 1900-01, while 31,573 boys and 3,442 girls were at school in 1903-04, being respectively 25·4 and 2·7 per cent. of the number of school-going age. The number of educational institutions, public and private, in 1903-04 was 1,026, including an Arts college, 90 secondary schools, 887 primary schools and 48 other special schools. The expenditure on education was 3·26 lakhs, of which Rs. 62,000 was met from Provincial funds, Rs. 40,000 from District funds, Rs. 3,000 from municipal funds and 1·37 lakhs from fees. Nadia has always been famous as a home of Sanskrit learning, and its *tois*, or indigenous Sanskrit schools, deserve special mention. In these *Smriti* (Hindu social and religious law) and *Nyāya* (logic) are taught, many of the pupils being attracted from considerable distances by the fame of these ancient institutions. A valuable report on these *tois*, by the late Professor E. B. Cowell (Calcutta, 1867), contains

a full account of the schools, the manner of life of the pupils and the works studied. Most of the *taluk* are in the town of Nabadwip, but there are a few also in the surrounding villages.

In 1903 the District contained 13 dispensaries, of which 7 Medical. had accommodation for 52 in-door patients. The cases of 66,000 out-patients and 646 in-patients were treated during the year, and 2,700 operations were performed. The expenditure was Rs. 21,000, of which Rs. 5,000 was met by Government contributions, Rs. 3,000 from local and Rs. 10,000 from municipal funds, and Rs. 1,935 from subscriptions. In addition, the Zannāna Mission maintains a hospital and 3 dispensaries, and large numbers of patients are treated by the doctors of the Rānāghāt Medical Mission.

Vaccination is compulsory only within municipal areas. It does not appear that much progress has been made of late years; 50,000 persons or 32 per mille of the whole population were successfully vaccinated in 1903-04.

[Sir W. W. Hunter's *Statistical Account of Bengal*, vol. ii; 1875, Fever Commission's Report, Calcutta, 1881.]

**Krishnagar Sub-division.**—Head-quarters sub-division of the Nadia District, Bengal, situated between 23° 17' and 23° 49' N., and 88° 9' and 88° 48' E., with an area of 701 square miles. The sub-division consists of a wide alluvial plain, bounded on the west by the Bhāgirathi and intersected by the Jalangi which flows past the head-quarters station and then joins the Bhāgirathi. The population increased from 349,007 in 1891 to 361,333 in 1901, the density being 515 persons to the square mile. The sub-division contains 2 towns, KRISHNAGAR (population 24,547), the head-quarters of the District and of the sub-division, and NABADWIP (10,880) and 740 villages. The famous battle-field of PLASSEY lies at the extreme north of the sub-division.

**Rānāghāt Sub-division.**—Southern sub-division of the Nadia District, Bengal, situated between 22° 53' and 23° 20' N., and 88° 20' and 88° 45' E., with an area of 427 square miles. The sub-division is a deltaic tract, bounded on the south-west by the Bhāgirathi; it contains much jungle and numerous marshes and backwaters, and the whole tract is malarious and unhealthy. The population declined from 230,030 in 1891 to 217,077 in 1901, the density in the latter year being 508 persons to the square mile; the decrease amounting to 5.63 per cent. was due to the prevalence of malarial affections. The sub-division contains 4 towns, RANAGHAT (population 8,744), the head-quarters, SANTIPUR (26,898), CHAKDIA (5,482) and BIRNAGAR (3,124) and 568 villages.

**Kushtia Sub-division.**—North-eastern sub-division of the Nadia District, Bengal, lying between 23° 42' and 24° 9' N., and 88° 44' and 89° 22' E., with an area 596 square miles. The sub-division is a wide alluvial plain of great fertility, the

northern boundary of which is formed by the Padmā, while the Mātābhānga bounds it on the south-west. The population was 486,308 in 1901, as compared with 482,927 in 1891; this is by far the most populous part of the District, the density being 816 persons to the square mile. The sub-division contains 2 towns, KUSHIA (population 5,330), its head-quarters, and KUMARKHALI (4,544) and 1,011 villages.

**Meherpur Sub-division.**—Northern sub-division of the Nadia District, Bengal, lying between  $23^{\circ} 36'$  and  $24^{\circ} 11'$  N., and  $88^{\circ} 18'$  and  $88^{\circ} 53'$  E., with an area of 632 square miles. The sub-division is a deltaic tract, bounded on the north by the Jalangi; a considerable portion of the area consists of a low-lying tract of black clay soil. The population increased from 336,716 in 1891 to 348,124 in 1901, the density in the latter year being 551 persons to the square mile. The sub-division contains the town of MINERUN (population 5,766), the head-quarters, and 607 villages.

**Chuādhānga Sub-division.**—Eastern sub-division of the Nadia District, Bengal, lying between  $23^{\circ} 22'$  and  $23^{\circ} 50'$  N. and  $88^{\circ} 38'$  and  $89^{\circ} 1'$  E., with an area of 437 square miles. The sub-division consists of a flat wide-spread plain intersected by numerous streams, which have now in many instances silted up. The population increased from 245,422 in 1891 to 254,539 in 1901, the density in the latter year being 593 persons to the square mile. The sub-division contains 486 villages, CHUADHANGA being its head-quarters.

**Birnagar (or Ula).**—Town in the Rānāghāt sub-division, Nadia District, Bengal, situated in  $23^{\circ} 15'$  N. and  $88^{\circ} 31'$  E. Population (1901) 3,121. Birnagar was constituted a municipality in 1869. The average income for the decade ending in 1901-02 was Rs. 3,700, and the expenditure Rs. 2,900. The income in 1903-04 was Rs. 3,400 mainly from a tax on persons (or property tax), and the expenditure was Rs. 2,400.

**Chākdaha.**—Town in the Rānāghāt sub-division, Nadia District, Bengal, situated in  $23^{\circ} 6'$  N. and  $88^{\circ} 38'$  E. on the left bank of the Hooghly river. Population (1901) 5,482. Chākdaha was constituted a municipality in 1886. The average income and expenditure for the decade ending in 1901-02 were Rs. 3,800. The income in 1903-04 was Rs. 3,900, mainly derived from a tax on persons (or property tax), and the expenditure was Rs. 4,800. Chākdaha is a centre of the jute trade, but a change in the course of the river has greatly reduced its importance. It was near this place that Kartā Bābā, the founder of the Kartābhajā sect, was born.

**Chuādhānga Village.**—Head-quarters of the sub-division of the same name, Nadia District, Bengal, situated in  $23^{\circ} 39'$  N. and  $88^{\circ} 51'$  E. on the left bank of the Mātābhānga river. Population

(1901) 3,147. Chuādānga is a station on the Eastern Bengal State Railway, and an important trade centre. It contains the usual public offices; the sub-jail has accommodation for 12 prisoners.

**Krishnagar Town.**—Head-quarters of the Nadia District, Bengal, situated in 23° 24' N. and 88° 31' E. on the left bank of the Jalangi river. Population (1901) 24,547. It has been slowly decreasing since 1872, when it was 26,750, owing to the ravages of fever, for which the town is notorious. Krishnagar is the residence of the Rājās of Nadia. The town is the seat of a considerable trade, and is noted for its manufacture of coloured clay figures. It was constituted a municipality in 1864. The average income for the decade ending 1901-02 was Rs. 38,000, and the expenditure Rs. 36,000. In 1903-04 the total income was Rs. 48,000, chiefly derived from a tax on houses and lands (Rs. 22,000), and a conservancy rate (Rs. 11,000), and the expenditure was Rs. 40,000. The old bed of the Anjonā river has recently been excavated in order to improve the drainage, a loan having been taken from Government for the purpose.

Krishnagar contains the usual public offices; the District jail has accommodation for 216 prisoners, the manufactures being mustard oil, mats, and *sarki* or brick-dust. A Government college affiliated to the Calcutta University was attended by a daily average of 63 pupils in 1900-01; the total expenditure being Rs. 28,000. A collegiate school is attached to the college. Since 1881 the attendance at both institutions has shown a steady increase. Krishnagar is a station of the Church Missionary Society and the head-quarters of the Roman Catholic diocese of Central Bengal, each body having its own church and schools. The Church of England Zanāna Mission maintains 2 dispensaries, a hospital and 2 schools.

**Kumārkhālī.**—Town in the Kushtia sub-division, Nadia District, Bengal, situated in 23° 52' N. and 89° 15' E. on the left bank of the Garai river. Population (1901) 4,584. It is a station on the Eastern Bengal State Railway, and a considerable trading centre. During the mercantile days of the East India Company, a Commercial Resident was stationed at Kumārkhālī, and a large business in silk was carried on; the only relic of those days is a cemetery, with a few old tombs, the earliest dating from 1790. Kumārkhālī was constituted a municipality in 1869. The average income and expenditure for the decade ending in 1901-02 were Rs. 6,000. In 1903-04 the income was Rs. 5,500, half of which was obtained from a tax on persons, and the expenditure was Rs. 5,300.

**Kushtia Town.**—Head-quarters of the sub-division of the same name in the Nadia District, Bengal, situated in 23° 55' N. and 89° 9' E. on the right bank of the Padmā or Ganges. Population

(1901) 5,330. It is a thriving trade centre with a station on the Eastern Bengal State Railway. Kushtia was constituted a municipality in 1869. The average income and expenditure for the decade ending in 1901-02 were Rs. 7,000. In 1903-04 the income was Rs. 10,000, including Rs. 3,000 derived from a tax on persons (or property tax), and Rs. 2,500 from a conservancy rate, and the expenditure was Rs. 8,000. The town contains the usual public offices; the sub-jail has accommodation for 24 prisoners.

**Meherpur Town (Meherpur).**—Head-quarters of the sub-division of the same name in the Nadia District, Bengal, situated in  $23^{\circ} 47' N.$  and  $88^{\circ} 38' E.$  on the Bhairab river. Population (1901) 5,766. Meherpur was constituted a municipality in 1869. The average income for the decade ending in 1901-02 was Rs. 4,100, and the expenditure Rs. 3,500. In 1903-04 the income was Rs. 3,000, half of which was obtained from a tax on persons, and the expenditure was Rs. 3,800. The town contains the usual public offices; the sub-jail has accommodation for 13 prisoners. The Church Missionary Society has a branch at Meherpur. Good bell-metal ware is manufactured.

**Nabadwip (or Nadia).**—Ancient capital of Nadia District, Bengal, situated in  $23^{\circ} 24' N.$  and  $88^{\circ} 23' E.$  in the head-quarters sub-division on the west bank of the Bhāgirathi. Population (1901) 10,880, of whom 10,416 are Hindus, 457 Muhammadans and 7 Christians. This great preponderance of Hindus in a District where 59 per cent. of the population are Musalmāns is significant. Nabadwip is reputed to have been founded in the twelfth century by Lakshman Sen, son of Ballāl Sen, king of Bengal. It was captured by Muhammad-i-Bakhtiyār Khilji in 1203. It has long been famous for its sanctity and learning, and its pandits are still referred to on questions of Hindu religion and precedent. Here towards the end of the 15th century was born the great Vaishnava reformer, Chaitanya, in whose honour a festival, attended by some 8,000 or 10,000 pilgrims, is held annually in January-February. The famous *to/s* or Sanskrit schools have been referred to in the article on NADIA District. The town was constituted a municipality under the name of Nadia in 1869. The average income for the decade ending in 1901-02 was Rs. 7,000 and the expenditure Rs. 6,000. In 1903-04 the income was Rs. 9,100 mainly from a tax on persons (or property tax), and the expenditure was Rs. 8,400. The lodging-houses in the town are regulated under Bengal Act IV of 1871. Brass utensils are manufactured.

**Plassey (from *palās*, the *Butea frondosa*).**—Village in the head-quarters sub-division of Nadia District, Bengal, situated in  $23^{\circ} 47' N.$  and  $88^{\circ} 16' E.$  on the left bank of the Bhāgirathi river. It is famous as the scene of Clive's victory over

Sirāj-ud-daula, Nawāb of Bengal, on 23rd June 1757. After the capture of Calcutta by Sirāj-ud-daula in June 1756, Clive was despatched with reinforcements from Madras to re-establish the British factories in Bengal, and he recaptured Calcutta in January 1757. After prolonged negotiations he succeeded in gaining over Mir Jafar, the Nawāb's general, whom he promised to instal as Nawāb in place of Sirāj-ud-daula. In March Chandernagore was taken from the French, and on the 13th June a fresh advance was made; Kātwa was captured on the 18th, and on the 22nd the troops marched to Plassey, where Sirāj-ud-daula was encamped with an army of 50,000 foot, 18,000 horse and 50 pieces of cannon, mostly 24-pounders and 32-pounders drawn by oxen. To oppose this army Clive had a force of 900 Europeans, of whom 100 were artillerymen and 50 sailors, 100 topasses or Portuguese half-castes, and 2,100 sepoys; the artillery consisted of 8 six-pounders and 2 howitzers. Clive encamped in a mango grove, which has since been washed away by the Bhāgirathi, and the enemy were entrenched on the river bank to the north of him. At daybreak on the 23rd the enemy advanced to the attack, enveloping his right, Mir Jafar being on the extreme left of the line. Both sides maintained a vigorous cannonade until 2 o'clock, when Sirāj-ud-daula drew off and returned to his entrenchments. At this, Mir Jafar lingered behind on the left and eventually joined the British. Clive advanced and cannonaded the Nawāb's entrenchment, and entered his camp at 5 o'clock after a slight resistance, Sirāj-ud-daula having already fled to Murshidābād. This decisive victory was won with only a small loss, but it made the British masters of Bengal. A monument marks the scene of the battle-field.

**Rānāghāt Town.**—Head-quarters town of the sub-division of the same name in Nadiā District, Bengal, situated in 23° 11' N. and 88° 34' E. on the Churnī river. Population (1901) 8,744. Rānāghāt is an important station on the Eastern Bengal State Railway, and a terminus of the light railway which runs to Krishnagar. Rānāghāt was constituted a municipality in 1864. The average income and expenditure for the decade ending in 1901-02 was Rs. 9,000. In 1903-04 the income was Rs. 13,000, including Rs. 6,000 derived from a tax on persons and lands, and Rs. 4,000 from a conservancy rate, and the expenditure was Rs. 12,000. The town contains the usual public offices; the sub-jail has accommodation for 12 prisoners. Rānāghāt is an important trade centre and is the head-quarters of a Medical Mission started in 1893. Several dispensaries are maintained here and at out-stations, and are very largely attended.

**Sāntipur.**—Town in the Rānāghāt sub-division, Nadiā District, Bengal, situated in 23° 15' N. and 88° 27' E. on the river Hooghly. Population (1901) 26,898, having declined from 30,437 in 1891; it is still the most populous town in the District.



Hindus number 18,219, Muhammadans 8,672, Christians 6, other religions 1. Santipur was constituted a municipality in 1865. The average income for the decade ending in 1901-02 was Rs. 28,000, and the expenditure Rs. 25,000. In 1903-04 the income was Rs. 31,000, including Rs. 16,000 derived from a tax on houses and lands, and Rs. 7,000 obtained from municipal property, and the expenditure was Rs. 26,000. Santipur was once the centre of a flourishing weaving industry, and its muslins had a European reputation, the town being the site of a Commercial Residency and the centre of large factories under the East India Company. Owing to the competition of machine-made goods, however, the weavers are no longer prosperous. There was at one time a considerable trade in date-sugar, but this too is becoming less profitable. The earthquake of 1897 destroyed many of the largest buildings, and the impoverished owners have been unable to replace them. There is still, however, a considerable local trade. The Rāsh Jātra festival in honour of Krishna is celebrated at Santipur on the day of the full moon in Kārtik (October-November), and is visited by about 10,000 persons; Santipur is also a celebrated bathing place. The Zanāna Mission has a school and dispensary in Santipur.

Bound-  
aries,  
configura-  
tion and  
river  
system.

**Marshidābād District.**—District of the Presidency Division, Bengal, lying between  $23^{\circ} 43'$  and  $21^{\circ} 52'$  N., and  $87^{\circ} 49'$  and  $85^{\circ} 44'$  E., with an area of 2,143 square miles. In shape it resembles an isosceles triangle with its apex pointing to the north-west. The northern and eastern boundaries are formed by the main stream of the Padmā, which separates it from Māldā and Rajshāhi; on the south-east the Jalangī divides it from Nadiā; while it is bounded on the south by Rurdwān; and on the west by Birbhūm and the Santāl Pargannas.

The Bhāgīrathi, which flows with many windings south-east and south, divides the District into two tracts nearly equal in size but differing in their physical features. The country to the west of the Bhāgīrathi, known as Rār, forms a continuation of the Ohotā Nāgpur plateau; its general level is slightly undulating and higher than that of the rest of the District, but it is interspersed with marshes and seamed by hill torrents. The Bāgri or eastern portion forms part of the old Ganges delta, and its river system consists of the PADMA with its distributaries, the BHAGIRATHI, BHAYRAN, SIALMURI and JALANGI. The Bhāgīrathi, which forms the oldest known outlet of the Ganges and marks the western limit of the delta, has undergone great changes even in the last 100 years; its head is almost silted up, and it is with difficulty kept open for navigation even by small boats during the dry season. Its chief tributaries are the Bānsloi and the Pāglā, which rise in the Santāl Pargannas, the Chorā Dekrā and the Dwārka. The Dwārka or Bābla is a continuation of the

Brāhmani, which rises in the Birbhūm hills, and after uniting with the Mor flows eastwards through the Kāndi sub-division to join the Bhāgirathi; like all hill streams, it is very rapid and liable to sudden flood. The Bhainab and Sialmāri are unimportant streams and flow into the Jalangī; this river has a general trend to the south-west and eventually joins the Bhāgirathi in the Nadiā District. There are many small lakes, the largest being the Telkar Bil west of Berhampore, which is about 3 miles long and  $2\frac{3}{4}$  miles broad, and a large horse-shoe lake known as Motijhil, which has been formed about 2 miles from MURSHIDABAD town by a change in the course of the Bhāgirathi.

The portion of the District east of the Bhāgirathi is covered by recent alluvium, consisting of sandy clay and sand along the course of the rivers and fine silt consolidating into clay in the flatter parts of the river plain. The limit between the alluvium and the higher ground on the west is marked by a bank of stiff clay, gravel and nodular limestone, which disappears as it passes downwards towards Birbhūm, where it amalgamates with the general alluvium. In the north-west of the District are some isolated clay hills.

The stretches of low-lying land under rice cultivation afford a foot-hold for many marsh species, while the numerous ponds and ditches are filled with submerged and floating water plants. Remarkable among these for its rarity, and interesting on account of its distribution in Europe on the one hand, and Australia on the other, is the floating *Drosera Aldrovanda*. The edges of sluggish creeks are lined with large sedges and bulrushes, and the banks of rivers have a hedge-like scrub jungle. The sides of embankments and village sites, where not occupied by habitations, are densely covered with village shrubberies of semi-spontaneous species, interspersed with clumps of planted bamboos and groves of *Areca*, *Moringa*, *Mangifera* and *Anona*, while banyan (*Ficus indica*), pipal (*Ficus religiosa*), babul (*Acacia arabica*), jack (*Artocarpus integrifolia*), bel (*Ægle marmelos*), plantain and date trees are also common. Waysides and waste places are filled with grasses and weeds, usually of little intrinsic interest, but often striking because of their distribution. Many of them have been inadvertently introduced by human agency, and include European or African and American species, which spread more plentifully than similar weeds of truly Indian origin. The District is famous for the variety of its mango trees.

Big game has disappeared before the advance of cultivation, but leopards are occasionally met with and wild hogs are abundant in the jungles.

During the hot weather dry westerly winds alternate with the southerly sea breezes of moderate temperature which characterize other parts of Lower Bengal, and the mean temperature,

Climato  
and  
tempera-  
ture.

which is 79° for the whole year, rises from 65° in January to 89° in April, when the mean maximum is 100°. The mean minimum is lowest in January (53°). The average rainfall is 53 inches, of which 9·6 fall in June, 11 in July, 10 in August and 9 in September.

Natural  
calami-  
ties.

The earthquake of 1897 caused great damage, especially along the banks of the Bhāgīrathī river, where the old masonry buildings in the riparian towns suffered enormously. The cost of repairs to public property was estimated to exceed 2 lakhs, and the damage to private property at 50 lakhs. Discharges of water and black mud occurred from the bed of the Bhāgīrathī near Jangipur, and sand and water were also thrown up from fissures in the marshy land near Gaur and Jalangi, one fissure extending for a length of 2 miles. The District is liable to annual inundations, and serious floods are only prevented by numerous and expensive embankments. In 1870 the embankments of the Bhāgīrathī were breached, and a disastrous flood occurred which destroyed the crops over a large area and caused great suffering. In 1886 the city of Murshidābād was inundated and thousands of people left destitute. The Dwārka is liable to sudden floods, and a tract of low-lying country about 16 miles in extent at the confluence of the Mor and Dwārka rivers in the Kāndī subdivision, known as Hojāl, is inundated more or less heavily almost every year.

History.

In ancient times the Bhāgīrathī formed an important political boundary. To the east lay BANGA or Samatata and to the west KARNA SUVARNA, whose capital was probably at or near RANGAMATI. Under the Sen kings it separated the RAJSHI division of Bengal from the BAGRI division, traces of which still remain in the name Bāgdi. It was conquered in 1197 by Muhammad-i-Bakhtyār Khiljī, and formed part of the dominions of the Muhammadan kings of Gaur. In the middle of the 16th century factories were founded at Cossimbazar, at that time the head-quarters of the silk trade, but the political importance of the District dates from the early part of the 18th century, when Murshid Kulī Khān changed the seat of government from Dacca to the little town of Murshidābād, thenceforth called after him, where he built a palace. Historical interest centres in MURSHIDABAD, COSSIMBAZAR and BIRHAMPORE. Other places of archaeological importance are Badrihāt and Rāngamāti. When a Collector was first appointed to the charge of the District in 1772, its area extended over the neighbouring zamindaris of Birbhūm and Bishnupur. These outlying tracts had always been noted for lawlessness; and for the better administration of justice they were finally severed from Murshidābād in 1787. The District was thus reduced to about its present size, but the irregularity of the boundary between it and Birbhūm has been a constant source of perplexity.

to the local officials. In 1875 the District was transferred from the Rajshahi to the Presidency Division.

The population, which in 1872 numbered 1,214,104, had <sup>The</sup> risen in 1881 to 1,226,790, in 1891 to 1,250,946 and in 1901 to <sup>1901</sup> 1,333,181. The increase between 1872 and 1891 was very small, owing to the ravages of the Burdwan fever, which devastated not only the lowlying water-logged eastern tracts, but also the elevated country to the west. In recent years, there has been a great improvement in the health of the District, especially in the Barh country. To the east however the climate is damp, and malaria is still prevalent; cholera is rarely absent, and enlargement of the spleen and liver is almost universal. Elephantiasis and hydrocele are endemic. The table below gives statistics of the population by sub-divisions in 1901 :—

SUB-DIVISION.	Area in square miles.	NUMBER		Population.	Population per square mile.	Percentage of variation in population between 1901 and 1891	Number of persons able to read and write.
		Towns.	Villages.				
Berhampore	252	1	1,000	471,002	620	+ 3.7	22,425
Kaliachuli	371	2	631	102,008	62	+ 6.2	11,202
Jangipur	208	1	1,000	3,551	1.7	+ 10.4	90, 50
Kandi	312	1	100	271,003	0.9	+ 12.4	20, 70
DISTRICT TOTAL	2,143	5	2,761	1,333,181	622	+ 6.6	73,406

The towns are BIRHAMPORE, the head-quarters, MURSHIDABAD, AZIMGANJ, JANGIPUR and KANDI. The alluvial tract to the east of the Bhāgirathi is much more densely populated than the west of the District. In the latter tract, however, the population is now growing rapidly, the increase at the census of 1901 amounting to 12.9 per cent., compared with 3.1 per cent. in the east of the District, and rising as high as 26 per cent. in the Sāgardighi and Kaliānganj thānas, which are still sparsely populated and attract a large number of immigrants from Bīrhm and the Santal Parganas. The District has suffered from diluvion along the north, and there has consequently been a considerable loss of population by migration to the corresponding alluvial formations in Malda and Rajshahi on the other side of the Padmā. There is a fair amount of temporary immigration from Bihār and the United Provinces, especially during the winter months. The vernacular of the District is the dialect known as Central Bengali. Muhammadans (676,899) in 1901 outnumbered the Hindus (613,474), having increased from 48.1 per cent. of the population in 1881 to 50.8 per cent. in the latter year. Hindus, however, still predominate to the west of the Bhāgirathi.

Most of the Muhammadans are Shāikhs (628,000). Among the Hindus the most numerous castes are Kaibarttas (95,000), Bāgdin (40,000) chiefly in the south-west, Sadgops (39,000) chiefly in the north-east, and various other castes.

in the southern thānas, Chhina (33,000) along the south-east, Brāhmins, Ahirs and Goāls. Agriculture supports 53 per cent. of the population, industries 19·3 per cent., commerce 0·6 per cent., and the professions 1·8 per cent.

Christian  
Missions.

Christians number only 391, of whom 249 are natives. Various missions have established themselves in the District from time to time, but they have not met with much success. The only mission now there is a branch of the London Mission Society, which began work in 1824.

General  
agricul-  
tural con-  
ditions.

The low-lying alluvial soil to the east is very fertile; the chief crop is the autumn rice, but it also grows several important cold weather crops. On the hard clay of the Rārh tract *aman* or winter rice is the main staple, though sugarcane, mulberry, tobacco and various vegetables are also grown.

Chief  
agricul-  
tural sta-  
tistics and  
principal  
crops.

The salient agricultural statistics for 1903-04 are shown below, areas being in square miles:—

SUB-DIVISION.	Total.	Cultivated.	Culturable waste.
Berhampore .. ...	752	316	195
Talish .. ...	370	205	17
Jangipur .. ...	500	281	21
Kāndi .. ...	612	332	174
TOTAL .. ...	2,113	1,164	417

It is estimated that 30 per cent. of the cultivated area is twice cropped. Rice is grown over an area of 723 square miles, the winter rice covering 31 per cent. of the net cropped area against 28 per cent. under autumn rice. About 167 square miles are under wheat and 95 square miles under barley. Other crops extensively cultivated are gram and other pulses and oil-seeds, linseed and mustard being the most important varieties. Jute, sugarcane, indigo and mulberry are grown, but the cultivation of indigo and mulberry is declining. Little use is made of the Agriculturists' Loans Act, but in 1896-98 Rs. 40,000 was advanced.

Cattle.

Pasture land is plentiful all over the District. The chief grazing ground is a tract of low country in the Kāndi sub-division about 16 miles in area known as Hojāl; this is covered with water during the rains, but in the dry season it affords splendid pasturage. Cattle fairs are held at Pāuchamdi and Talibpur in the Kāndi sub-division, and occasionally at Dhābta in the head-quarters sub-division.

Irrigation.

The necessity for irrigation is limited to the west of the District where water is conducted over the fields from tanks or natural water-courses. A large number of tanks are used for this purpose in the Manigram Government estate.

Pearl fisheries exist in a series of lakes which mark the line of an old river and stretch from the Gobra nullah to Rukimpur, a distance of about 38 miles. The mussel in which the pearls are found is a species of *Unio*, and is probably a variety of the pearl-bearing *Unio margaritifera*. The majority of the pearls are seed pearls, and they have usually a golden tint. Valuable pearls are occasionally procured fetching as much as Rs. 200 each, but such a find is very rare, and the largest pearls found in recent years rarely exceed Rs. 15 or Rs. 30 in value. The fishery season is in the hot weather months when the water is low and almost stagnant. The various branches of the industry find employment for about 300 persons during this period, and its annual value is estimated at Rs. 3,000. Fisherie.

Iron is found, but not in sufficient quantities to repay smelting. Calcareous earth occurs in several places and is extensively used for making lime. *Kankar* or nodular limestone crops up generally over the western half of the District and is used for road-making. Minerals.

The silk industry in this part of Bengal is of great age, and the silk trade is one of the earliest of the industries which occupied the servants of the East India Company in the District, their efforts being stimulated by competition with the French, Dutch and Armenians. Silk factories date from the middle of the 17th century, when Cossimbazar was the most important centre. The winding of silk is still carried on, but it has steadily declined since the Company closed their great factory at Jangipur in 1835. The decline is due in a great measure to diseases of the worms, which the Bengal Silk Association constituted in 1848 is now taking steps to combat. There is a nursery at Chandanpur which distributes large quantities of selected seed to the rearsers; similar nurseries are being built at Rajdharpur and Kumharpur, and the use of examined seed is spreading in the Government estates west of the Bhāgirathi. Arts and manufactures.

Silk is still largely manufactured in the head-quarters and Jangipur sub-divisions; a great variety of fabrics are manufactured. The best silks are those produced in the Mirzāpur, Haripurpāra and Daulat Bazar thānas; in 1903-04 the Mirzāpur weavers turned out 26,000 yards of silk cloth, valued at Rs. 33,000. In addition to the native artizans working with hand looms, there were in that year 51 factories worked with machinery which had an outturn of 396,000 lb., valued at nearly 27 lakhs, the principal firms being Messrs. Louis Payen and Co., and the Bengal Silk Company. *Tasar* and *mukā* silks are also manufactured, the latter being best prepared by Indian weavers on their hand looms. Cotton weaving by natives working with hand looms is still an important occupation, and silk and cotton dyeing are carried on by a few families at Khagra Bāluahar and

Mirzāpur. Murshidābād has several skilled embroiderers, who adorn clothes, gloves, slippers and caps with gold and silver lace. Gold and silver wire is also made in small quantities. *Bidri* ware is produced by a few workmen in Murshidābād; the process consists in inlaying with silver a sort of pewter which is blackened with sulphate of copper. Bell-metal and brass utensils of a superior kind are manufactured in large quantities in Khagrā, Berhampore, Kāndi and Baramgar; these articles are sold in the local markets and are also exported. Locks, nails and nut crackers are made at Dhulian. Ivory carving was formerly a considerable industry, but is now confined to a few workmen in Murshidābād. Blankets, shell bracelets and pottery are manufactured in a few villages, and musical instruments and *hukla* pipes are also made. The indigo industry has practically disappeared, the outturn in 1903-04 having fallen to 13 tons.

**Commerce.** The external trade is chiefly with Calcutta. The chief imports are European piece-goods, salt, coal and coke and kerosene oil, and the chief exports rice, wheat, grain, oilseeds, jute, silk, indigo and metal ware. The District is favourably situated for trade, being served by two offshoots of the Padmā, the Bhāgīrathi and the Jalangī, which form the Hooghly and lead direct to Calcutta. The principal seats of trade are JAMSHEDPUR, AZINGANJ, JIAGANJ, Khagrā and DHULIAN on the Bhāgīrathi, and BHAGWANGOLA on the Ganges. Trade is carried on chiefly at permanent markets, and periodical fairs are also held at Dhulian, Jangipur, Gualtiā, Suktipur and Kāndi. The Jain merchants of Azinganj are among the richest traders in Bengal.

**Railways  
and roads.**

The little railway from Nalhāti to Azinganj runs for about 14 miles within the District. The Murshidābād branch of the Eastern Bengal State Railway, which has recently (1906) been opened, leaves the main line at Rānāghāt and enters the District near Plassey, whence it runs nearly due north through Beldānga, Berhampore, Murshidābād and Jiaganj to Lalgolā. There is also a proposal to bridge the Bhāgīrathi between Jiaganj and Murshidābād, and to connect the new line with the East Indian Railway system. The District board maintains 33 miles of metalled and 526 miles of unmetalled roads, with 335 bridges and 22 ferries. The most important roads are those connecting Berhampore, the head-quarters station, with Krishnagar, Bhagwāngolā, Patkubāri, Kāndi and Jalangī, Murshidābād with Pānchgrām, and Jarur with Gāmbhira.

**Water  
communi-  
cation.**

Steamer services ply up the Padmā from Goalundo throughout the year, and the other big rivers are navigable by large country boats, except during the latter part of the dry season; for the rest of the year the Calcutta Steam Navigation Company maintains a regular steamer service up the Bhāgīrathi from

Calcutta. The measures which have been taken from time to time to keep this river and the Jalangi open for traffic are described in the article on the NADIA RIVERS. In 1903-04 Rs. 41,000 was realized as tolls, while the expenditure in keeping the channels open amounted to Rs. 44,000.

The famine of 1770 is believed to have carried off three-eighths <sup>Famine.</sup> of the population of this District. In 1870 some distress was caused by high prices, and severe scarcity was felt in 1874 and 1897. On the latter occasion Government expended Rs. 73,000 on famine relief and was aided by the munificence of local zamindars headed by the late Mahārānī Sarnamayī, C.I. The aggregate number of units relieved reckoned in terms of one day was 454,000.

For general administrative purposes the District is divided into 4 sub-divisions with head-quarters at BERHAMPUR, JANGI-PUR, KANDI and LALBAGH. The District Magistrate-Collector is assisted at head-quarters by a staff of 4 Deputy Magistrate-Collectors and occasionally by a Joint or Assistant Magistrate. The sub-divisional officers of Kāndi, Lālbāgh and Jangipur belong to the Provincial executive service and are assisted by sub-deputy collectors. The Executive Engineer in charge of the Nadiā Rivers division is stationed at Berhampore. <sup>District sub divisions and staff.</sup>

Subordinate to the District and Sessions Judge for the disposal of civil work are a Subordinate Judge at head-quarters and 7 Munsifs, of whom two each are stationed at Berhampore, Jangipur and Kāndi and one at Lālbāgh. The criminal courts include those of the Judge, the District Magistrate, and the above mentioned stipendiary magistrates. The most common cases are those which arise out of disputes about land. <sup>Civil and criminal justice.</sup>

In Todar Mal's rent roll of 1582 the present District area <sup>Land</sup> formed portion of Audambar or Tānda, Sātgaon and other <sup>revenue.</sup> *kārs*. In Jafar Khān's settlement of 1722 the name Murshidābād was applied to an area apparently co-extensive with the great zamindāri of Rānī Bhawānī, properly known as Rājshāhī. It is therefore impossible to compare the present land revenue of the District with that realized under Muhammadan rule. The whole of the District is permanently settled, with the exception (in 1903-04) of 72 temporarily settled estates with a current demand of Rs. 30,000, and 64 estates with a demand of Rs. 26,000 held direct by Government. The average incidence of rental is Rs. 3-1-6 per cultivated acre, but rents differ widely in various parts, being lowest in the head-quarters and Jangipur sub-divisions, and highest in the Kāndi sub-division, where rice and wheat lands bring in from Rs. 7-8-0 to Rs. 18, and mulberry and sugarcane lands from Rs. 12 to Rs. 24 per acre. In the head-quarters sub-division on the other hand the rent of rice and wheat lands ranges between R. 1-2-0 and Rs. 9, that



of land growing pulse between Rs. 2-4 and Rs. 3, sugarcane land between Rs. 4 and Rs. 7-8-0, and mulberry land between Rs. 1-12-0 and Rs. 12 per acre.

The *ulbandi* system of tenure is very common especially in the Plessey *pargana*; for a description of this tenure see the article on NADIA District. *Ammā* or quit-rent tenures are numerous in the Fateh Singh estate. The average area of a tenant's holding is only one acre.

The following table shows the collections of land revenue and of total revenue, under the principal heads, in thousands of rupees:—

	1880-81.	1900-01.	1900-01.	1903-04
Land revenue ... ..	13,05	10,65	10,64	10,67
Total revenue ... ..	15,12	16,23	17,73	17,93

Local and  
municipal  
govern-  
ment.

Outside the municipalities of BIRHAMPTON, AZIMGANJ, JANGIPUR, KANDI, and MURSHIDABAD, local affairs are managed by the District Board with subordinate local boards in each sub-division. The income of the District board in 1903-04 was Rs. 1,27,000, of which Rs. 61,000 was derived from rates. The expenditure in the same year was also Rs. 1,27,000, including Rs. 60,000 spent on civil works and Rs. 25,000 on education. A scheme for supplying the rural areas with drinking water is in progress; this was initiated by a gift of a lakh from Rājā Jogendra Nārāyan Rao of Lalgaṇā.

Public  
works.

There are 71 miles of embankments along the Bhāgirathi river set up by the Public Works department to prevent the country on the east bank from being flooded by the spill of the river. The propriety of maintaining all these embankments has been called in question, on the ground that the land which would otherwise be flooded is thereby deprived of its supply of fertilizing silt, while the river, being confined to its bed, deposits its silt there, and thus gradually raises itself above the level of the surrounding country.

Police and  
jails.

The District contains 24 police stations and 26 outposts, and in 1903 the force subordinate to the District Superintendent of Police consisted of 4 inspectors, 53 sub-inspectors, 51 head-constables and 675 constables; in addition there is a rural police of 261 *dastidars* and 2,017 *chaukidars*. The District jail at BIRHAMPTON has accommodation for 340 prisoners, and subsidiary jails at the 3 sub-divisional outstations, for 62.

Education.

In spite of the proximity of the District to Calcutta, only 5.5 per cent. of the population (10.6 males and 0.6 females) could read and write in 1901. The total number of pupils under instruction increased from 12,000 in 1883 to 22,991 in 1892-93, and 24,837 in 1900-01, while in 1903-04, 21,015 boys and 1,531 girls were

at school, being respectively 24·5 and 1·5 per cent. of the children of school-going age. The number of educational institutions, public and private, in that year was 661, including one Arts college, 58 secondary schools, 582 primary schools and 20 other special schools. The expenditure on education was 2·17 lakhs, of which Rs. 44,000 was met from Provincial funds, Rs. 25,000 from District funds, Rs. 2,000 from municipal funds and Rs. 84,000 from fees. The principal institutions are the college and Sanskrit *tal* at BIRHAMPORE and the Nawāb's *madrasa* and high school at MURSHIDABAD. The London Mission Society maintains a high school at Khagrā near Birham-pore.

In 1903 the District contained 7 dispensaries, of which 5 Medical. had accommodation for 115 in-door patients. The cases of 65,000 out-patients and 1,335 in-patients were treated during the year, and 3,320 operations were performed. The expenditure was Rs. 27,000, of which Rs. 2,000 was met by Government contributions, Rs. 3,060 from local and Rs. 11,000 from municipal funds, and Rs. 3,000 from subscriptions. The hospital at Kāndi, which is maintained from an endowment fund, now amounting to 1·59 lakhs, left by Kumār Girīs Chandra Sinha of Paikpāra, is the best equipped in the District. There is a lunatic asylum at BIRHAMPORE.

Vaccination is compulsory only in the municipal towns. In Vaccination. 1903-04 the number of successful vaccinations was 37,000, representing 20 per thousand of the whole population.

[Sir W. W. Hunter, *Statistical Account of Bengal*, vol. iii, 1876; Beveridge, *Note on the Parganas of Murshidābād*, *Proceedings of the Asiatic Society*, 1892; Major Walsh, I.M.S., *History of Murshidābād*, 1902; G. C. Dutt, *Monograph on Ivory carving in Bengal*, Calcutta, 1901; N. G. Mukerji, *Monograph on the Silk fabrics of Bengal*, Calcutta, 1903; P. C. Majumdar, *The Musmid of Murshidābād*, Murshidābād, 1905.]

**Birham-pore Sub-division.**—Head-quarters sub-division of the Murshidābād District, Bengal, lying between 23° 48' and 24° 22' N., and 88° 11' and 88° 44' E., with an area of 752 square miles. The sub-division is bounded on the north-east by the Padmā, east and south-east by the Jalangī, and west by the Bhāgirathi; a great portion of the area is low-lying and liable to floods. Its population was 471,962 in 1901, compared with 454,919 in 1891, and in the former year there were 628 persons to the square mile. It contains one town BIRHAMPORE (population 24,397), its head-quarters, and 1,060 villages.

**Lālbaugh Sub-division.**—Central sub-division of the Murshidābād District, Bengal, lying between 24° 6' and 24° 23' N., and 87° 59' and 88° 30' E., with an area of 370 square miles. The sub-division is divided almost equally by the Bhāgirathi flowing from north to south; the eastern portion is an alluvial flat,

while the western portion is high and undulating. Its population was 192,978 in 1901, compared with 181,726 in 1891, and there were 522 persons to the square mile. It contains 2 towns **MUNSHIDABAD** (population 15,168) and **AZIMGANJ** (13,385), and 632 villages.

**Jangipur Sub-division.**—Northern sub-division of the Murshidabad District, Bengal, lying between  $24^{\circ} 19'$  and  $24^{\circ} 52'$  N. and  $87^{\circ} 49'$  and  $88^{\circ} 21'$  E., with an area of 599 square miles. The sub-division is divided into two parts by the Bhāgirathi, the land to the west of that river being high and undulating, and that to the east being a fertile alluvial tract liable to floods. Its population was 334,191 in 1901, compared with 317,179 in 1891, and in the former year there were 657 persons to the square mile. It contains one town **JANGIPUR** (population 10,921), its head-quarters, and 1,093 villages.

**Kāndi Sub-division.**—South-western sub-division of the Murshidabad District, Bengal, lying between  $23^{\circ} 48'$  and  $24^{\circ} 12'$  N. and  $87^{\circ} 50'$  and  $88^{\circ} 14'$  E., with an area of 512 square miles. The sub-division which is watered by the Bhāgirathi and Dwārka rivers, consists for the most part of undulating country, but near those rivers the land is alluvial and low-lying. Its population was 334,053 in 1901, compared with 297,122 in 1891, and in the former year there were 662 persons to the square mile. It contains one town **KANDI** (population 12,037), its head-quarters, and 883 villages.

**Azimganj.**—Town in the Lalbāgh sub-division, Murshidabad District, Bengal, situated in  $24^{\circ} 15'$  N. and  $88^{\circ} 16'$  E. on the right bank of the Bhāgirathi. The population of Azimganj, together with Jiāganj on the opposite bank which is included within the same municipal limits, was 13,385 in 1901. Azimganj is the terminus of the branch railway from Nalhati junction, and is an important trade centre. A small steamer runs in connection with the railway between Azimganj and Berhampore, but sometimes during the dry season it cannot get beyond Lalbāgh. Azimganj is connected by a ferry with Jiāganj on the opposite bank, and a service of steamers, which plies during the rains between Jiāganj and Dhuliān, calls here for goods and passengers. The town contains many well-built houses and some handsome temples belonging to Jain merchants. Azimganj was constituted a municipality in 1896. The average income for the 8 years ending in 1903-04 was Rs. 16,000 and the expenditure Rs. 15,000. In 1903-04 the income was Rs. 16,000, of which Rs. 9,000 was derived from a tax on persons (or property tax), and the expenditure was Rs. 15,500.

**Badrihāt.**—Ruins in the Lalbāgh sub-division, Murshidabad District, Bengal, situated in  $24^{\circ} 18'$  N. and  $88^{\circ} 16'$  E. on the right bank of the Bhāgirathi, a few miles above Azimganj.

An ancient city with a palace or fort once stood here. Stones and pillars engraved with Pāli characters, gold coins, and much broken pottery have been found; but nothing has yet been discovered which throws any light upon the history of the place. The Pāli inscriptions seem to point to the Buddhist period. The old Hindu name of Badrihāt was changed by the Muhammadans to Ghiyāsābād, in honour of Ghiyās-ud-dīn, one of the Pathān kings of Gaur, who is said to have been buried here.

**Berhampore Town** (*Bahrāmpur*).—Head-quarters of the Murshidābād District, Bengal, situated in 24° 8' N. and 88° 16' E. on the left bank of the Bhāgīrathi, 5 miles below the town of Murshidābād. Population (1901) 24,397, of whom 19,779 are Hindus, 4,335 Muhammadans and 255 Christians. Berhampore was selected as a site for a cantonment in 1757 shortly after the battle of Plassey, the factory house at Cossimbazar having been destroyed by Sirāj-ud-daula. The Court of Directors sanctioned the project to station troops here after the revolt of Mīr Kāsim in 1763, and the barracks were completed in 1767 at a cost of 30·23 lakhs. The cantonment will always be remembered as the scene of the first overt act of Mutiny in 1857, when the garrison had dwindled down to one battalion of native infantry and another of irregular cavalry and 2 guns. The sepoy of the 19th native infantry, who had been intensely excited by the story of the greased cartridges, rose, on the night of the 25th February, in open mutiny, but were prevented from doing any actual harm by the firm and at the same time conciliatory behaviour of their commanding officer. After the Mutiny European troops were again stationed here, but they were finally withdrawn in 1870. The barracks are still a prominent feature of the town, though they have now been appropriated to other uses.

Berhampore was constituted a municipality in 1876. The average income for the decade ending in 1901-02 was Rs. 46,000 and the expenditure Rs. 44,000. In 1903-04 the income was Rs. 62,000, of which Rs. 16,000 was derived from a tax on persons (or property tax), Rs. 15,000 from a water-rate, and Rs. 12,000 from a conservancy rate. The expenditure in the same year was Rs. 71,000. In 1894 the late Mahārānī Sarnamayī, c.i., undertook to furnish the town with a supply of filtered water. The works, which were opened in 1899, are designed to give a daily supply of 200,000 gallons. The water is pumped up from the Bhāgīrathi into 3 settling tanks each with a capacity of 223,000 gallons, whence it passes through filters into the clear water reservoirs. There are in all 12½ miles of pipes through which the water is distributed to the town.

The Magistrates' courts and municipal offices are located in the barracks. The Sessions Judge's court is about a mile to the south-east. The old military hospital has been converted

into a District jail. This has accommodation for 310 prisoners, and the chief industries are oil pressing, *sarki* pounding, carpentry, *dari* weaving and cane and bamboo work. Other public buildings are the circuit house and dāk hungalow, college, hospital and lunatic asylum. There are several churches in the town, and the cemetery contains some interesting memorial stones. The Berhampore college, founded by Government in 1853, is a first grade college with law classes and a hostel for students. A collegiate school is attached to it. It possesses fine buildings and a library, and is managed by a board of trustees. The Berhampore public Sanskrit *tal* is managed by the estate of the late Rānī Ārā Kālī Devī of Cossimbazar at an annual cost of Rs 3,000. The hospital has 36 beds. The lunatic asylum has been recently enlarged at a cost of 3 lakhs so as to provide accommodation for 267 male and 152 female patients. Lunatics are received here from the Presidency, Burdwan, and Bhāgalpur Divisions; in 1903-04 the maximum number of inmates was 263.

**Bhagwāngolā.**—River mart in the Lalbagh sub-division, Murshidābād District, Bengal, situated in  $24^{\circ} 20' N.$  and  $88^{\circ} 18' E.$  on the Ganges. Population (1901) 989. There are in reality two villages of the name, 5 miles from each other, called Now and Old Bhagwāngolā. The latter was under Muhammadan rule the port of Murshidābād and an important commercial town. In 1743 it was attacked four times by the Marāṭhās without success, but subsequently in 1750 it was taken, plundered and burned by them. Sirāj-ud-daula rested here in his flight to Rājmahāl. The river no longer flows by old Bhagwāngolā, and the traffic is confined to the new town.

**Cossimbazar (Kāsinbāzār).**—Decayed town in the headquarters sub-division of Murshidābād District, Bengal, situated in  $24^{\circ} 8' N.$  and  $88^{\circ} 17' E.$  on the Bhāgirathi, and now included in Berhampore municipality. Population (1901) 1,262. This town, the site of which is now a swamp marked by a few ruins, may lay claim to a historical interest superior even to that of the city of Murshidābād. Long before the days of Murshid Kālī Khān, who founded and gave his name to the latter city, the trade of Bengal was centred at Cossimbazar, and the different European nations who traded to India had factories here from very early times. The common name for the Bhāgirathi in English records down to the early years of the 19th century was the Cossimbazar river; and the triangular tract enclosed by the Bhāgirathi, Padmā and Jalangi was known in the early days of the Company as the island of Cossimbazar. The place is said to derive its name from a legendary founder Kāsim Khān. Its history cannot be traced back beyond the 17th century; but even when first mentioned it appears as a place of great consequence. After Sātgaon had been ruined by

the silting up of the Saraswati mouth, and before Calcutta was founded, Cossimbazar was the great emporium.

An English commercial agent was first appointed to Cossimbazar in 1658; and nine years later it was decided that the Chief at this place should be also a member of Council. In 1686 the factory at Cossimbazar, in common with the other English factories in Bengal, was confiscated by order of the Nawāb Shaista Khān, but it was restored a year or two later, and at the close of the century had become the leading English commercial agency in Bengal. In 1681 Job Charnook, the future founder of Calcutta, was chief at Cossimbazar. In that year, of £230,000 sent out by the East India Company as the investment to Bengal, £140,000 was assigned to Cossimbazar. In 1763 out of a total of £400,000 required as advances for investment, Cossimbazar demanded £90,000 or as much as any other two agencies, excepting Calcutta, and the filatures and machinery of the Company were estimated to be worth 20 lakhs. According to native tradition, the town was so studded with lofty buildings that the streets never saw the rays of the sun.

The factory of the Company at Cossimbazar owed much of its wealth, and all its political importance, to its close neighbourhood to the Muhammadan capital at Murshidābād. But from the same cause it was liable to constant danger. It was a matter of common occurrence for the Nawāb to order out his troops to blockade the walled factory, whenever he had any quarrel with the English Council at Calcutta. In 1757, when the Nawāb Sirāj-ud-daula resolved to drive the English out of Bengal, Cossimbazar felt the first effects of his anger. The factory was taken without resistance, and the Englishmen, including Mr. Watts, the Resident, and Warren Hastings, his assistant, were sent in custody to Murshidābād. After the battle of Plassey, Cossimbazar regained its commercial importance; but the political power formerly held by the Resident was transferred to the English Agent at the court of the Nawāb who lived at Murshidābād.

The decay of Cossimbazar dates from the beginning of the 19th century, when its climate, which had previously been celebrated for salubrity, underwent an unexplained change for the worse, so that the margin of cultivation receded and wild beasts increased. In 1811 Cossimbazar town is described as noted for its silk, hosiery, *koras*, and inimitable ivory work, while the surrounding country was "a wilderness inhabited only by beasts of prey." In 1813 the ruin of the town was effected by a change in the course of the Bhāgirathi, which suddenly deserted its ancient bed and, instead of following its former bend to the east, took a sweep to the west; it now flows 3 miles from the site of the old town. The channel in front of the warehouses of Cossimbazar

became a pestiferous marsh, a malarious fever broke out, and the place gradually became depopulated. The Company's filatures, however, continued to work, and weaving only ceased when it became impossible any longer to compete with the cheaper cotton goods of Manchester. In 1829 a census returned the population at 3,538. The town is the seat of the Mahārājā of Cossimbazar, a descendant of Kānta Bābā, *langun* of Warren Hastings. His palace is a fine building, and portions of it were constructed of beautiful carved stone taken from the palace of Chet Singh, the Mahārājā of Benares. Apart from this, ruins of huge buildings and broad mounds of earth alone remain to attest the former grandeur of the place. The first wife of Warren Hastings is buried here, and her tomb with its inscription is still in existence.

**Dhulian.**—Mart in the Jangipur sub-division, Murshidābād District, Bengal, situated in  $24^{\circ} 42' N.$  and  $87^{\circ} 58' E.$  on the Bhāgirathi. The name is commonly applied to a group of 5 villages with a population in 1901 of 4,900 persons. Dhulian is the site of an annual fair and one of the most important river marts in the District, being the seat of a large trade in rice, pulses, gram, wheat and other food grains. A steamer service plies between Dhulian and Jāganj during the rains.

**Girā.**—Site of battle field in the Jangipur sub-division, Murshidābād District, Bengal, lying in  $24^{\circ} 30' N.$  and  $88^{\circ} 6' E.$  to the south of Sufi. It is famous as the scene of two important battles, the first in 1740, when the Nawāb Ali Vaidi Khān defeated Sarfarāz Khān, his rival, for the government of Bengal; the second in 1763 when Mir Kā'im, Nawāb of Bengal, after declaring war on the East India Company, was finally defeated and the governorship conferred for the second time on Mir Jafar.

**Jangipur Town.**—Head-quarters town of the sub-division of the same name, Murshidābād District, Bengal, situated in  $24^{\circ} 28' N.$  and  $88^{\circ} 4' E.$  on the Bhāgirathi. Population (1901) 10,921. The town, which is said to have been founded by the emperor Jahāngir, was during the early years of British rule an important centre of the silk trade and the site of one of the Company's commercial residencies. There are still extensive filatures in the neighbourhood. Situated near the mouth of the Bhāgirathi, it is the chief toll station for boats passing along that river. It was constituted a municipality in 1869. The average income for the decade ending in 1901-02 was Rs. 11,000 and the expenditure Rs. 10,000. In 1903-04 the income was Rs. 14,000, including Rs. 4,000 obtained from tolls and ferries, and Rs. 3,000 derived from a tax on persons (or property tax); and the expenditure was Rs. 13,000. The town with the courts and offices originally stood on the left bank of the Bhāgirathi, but owing to the shifting of the river, the sub-divisional offices have been moved to its

right bank, that portion of the town being known as Raghunāth-ganj; the sub-jail has accommodation for 26 prisoners.

**Jiāganj.**—Village in the Lālbāgh sub-division, Murshidābād District, Bengal, situated in  $24^{\circ} 15' N.$  and  $88^{\circ} 16' E.$  on the left bank of the Bhāgirathi, 3 miles north of Murshidābād city, and opposite Azimganj station on the East Indian Railway. Population (1901) 8,731. Though it has somewhat declined in importance, Jiāganj is still a large depot where rice, jute, silk, sugar and a small quantity of cotton are collected for export. A jute press is at work here. Jiāganj, which is included within the Azimganj municipality, is connected with Azimganj by a ferry, and during the rainy season a steamer plies between it and Dhulian. It contains some large houses, the property of Jain merchants, many of whom dwell here, though the main colony lives in Azimganj.

**Kāndi Town.**—Head-quarters of the sub-division of the same name, Murshidābād District, Bengal, situated in  $23^{\circ} 58' N.$  and  $88^{\circ} 3' E.$  near the Mor river. Population (1901) 12,037. Kāndi owes much of its importance to the fact that it is the residence of the Rājās of Paikpāra, a wealthy and devout Hindū family. The founder of this family was Gangā Gobind Singh, a *banyan* of Warren Hastings, who was born at Kāndi, and retired thither in his old age with an immense fortune, which he devoted to the erection of shrines and images of Krishna. His name has acquired a traditional celebrity for the most magnificent *śrāddha* or funeral obsequies ever performed in Bengal, costing 20 lakhs, in honour of his mother. Kāndi was constituted a municipality in 1869. The average income and expenditure for the decade ending in 1901-02 was Rs. 7,000. In 19-3-04 the income was Rs. 9,000, mainly from a tax on persons, and the expenditure was Rs. 8,000. The town contains the usual public offices, a sub-jail with accommodation for 24 prisoners, and a dispensary with 24 beds. The latter is maintained from the proceeds of an endowment fund, now amounting to 1.59 lakhs, left by the late Kumār Giris Chandra Sinha of Paikpāra, and is the best equipped hospital in the District.

**Murshidābād Town.**—Head-quarters of the Lālbāgh sub-division, Murshidābād District, Bengal, situated in  $24^{\circ} 12' N.$  and  $88^{\circ} 17' E.$  on the left bank of the Bhāgirathi. The town which possesses great historical interest was formerly known as Makhsūsābād or Maksūdābād, and is stated by Tieffenthaler to have been founded by the emperor Akbar. In 1696 the Afghāns from Orissa in the course of their rebellion defeated 5,000 of the imperial troops and plundered the town. In 1701 the great Nawāb Murshid Kulī Khān moved the seat of government from Dacca to Maksūdābād, which he then called after himself Murshidābād; the old name, however, still lingers, and the spelling



Muxulavad is found in the early English records as late as 1760. Tradition relates that Murshid Kuli Khān moved his government to this place through fear of prince Azīm-ush-shān, who had attempted to assassinate him at Dacca. It seems more probable that he was induced to do so by political considerations. Dacca had lost its importance, for the Mughls and the Portuguese were no longer dangerous; and the banks of the Bhūgīrathi afforded a more central position for the management of the three provinces of Bengal, Bihār and Orissa. The new city was also situated on the main line of communication between the upper Ganges valley and the sea, along which the treasures of India were now beginning to find their way to the European settlements on the Hooghly; and it commanded the town of Cossimbazar, where all the foreigners had important factories. Moreover, the situation in those days was regarded as very healthy. Murshid Kuli Khān, by birth a Brāhman, and by education a courtier, was one of the most able administrators that ever served the Mughal empire in time of peace. Only second to the Nawāb in establishing the importance of Murshidābād, was the Jain banker, Mānik Ohānd Jagat Seth, by whose predominating influence as a financier, the residence of the governor became also the centre of the revenue collections for Bengal, Bihār and Orissa.

The dynasty founded by Murshid Kuli Khān did not continue in the direct line beyond two generations. Ali Vardi Khān won the governorship by conquest in 1740. Troublous times followed; in 1742 the Marāthās invaders sent by the chief of Berār plundered the suburbs of Murshidābād and obtained a booty of 3 lakhs from Jagat Seth. In the next year two separate armies of Marāthās came in, and Ali Vardi only avoided battle by playing off one chief against the other, and at last got rid of the stronger by paying a large sum of money. From this date till 1761, when he ceded to the Marāthās the province of Orissa and agreed to pay an annual tax of 12 lakhs, Ali Vardi was continually pressed by both the Marāthās and the Afghāns. He was succeeded in 1766 by his grandson Sirāj-ud-daula, who in the following year captured the English factory at Cossimbazar. During this period the city itself never suffered either from domestic or foreign war. Each successive prince, after the Eastern fashion, built for himself one or more new palaces; and the great family of Jagat Seth preserved their position as State bankers from generation to generation. On entering Murshidābād after the victory of Plassey, Colonel Olive wrote:— "This city is as extensive, populous, and rich as the city of London, with this difference, that there are individuals in the first possessing infinitely greater property than in the last city."

Even after the conquest of Bengal by the British, Murshidābād remained for some time the seat of administration. Plassey was

fought in 1757, just beyond the present southern limits of Murshidabad District; but that battle was not regarded at the time as interfering with Muhammadan independence, beyond the substitution of a subservient Nawab for the savage Siraj-ud-daula. The only apparent result was that the commercial chief of the factory at Cassimbazar was superseded by a Political Resident to the Darbar, who took up his quarters nearer the city, at Motighil,—“the Pearl Lake,”—in the palace of a former Nawab. In 1765 the East India Company received the grant of the *darani* or financial administration of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa from the Mughal emperor, Shah Alam, as the prize of the victory at Buxar; and in the following year Lord Clive, as Governor of Bengal, presided in person at the *jumda* or annual settlement of the revenues. But even on this occasion the young Nawab sat on the *masnad*, with the Governor on his right hand. The entire work of administration still remained, without serious check or supervision, in the hands of the Muhammadan officials; and Jagat Seth continued to be the State banker. The first great reform was effected in 1772 by Warren Hastings, who removed the Supreme Civil and Criminal Courts from Murshidabad to Calcutta. After an experience of three years, the tribunal of criminal justice was re-transferred to Murshidabad; and it was not till 1790, under Lord Cornwallis, that the entire revenue and judicial staff was ultimately fixed at the present capital of India. The Mint was abolished in 1799. About the same date, the civil head-quarters of the District were transferred to Berhampore, which had been from the first the site of the military cantonments. Murshidabad city was thus left only as the residence of the Nawab Nazim, a descendant of Mir Jafar, who till 1882 retained certain marks of sovereignty within his palace, and received a pension of 16 lakhs a year. The last holder of the title was for many years resident in England. On his return to India, he abdicated his position in favour of his son, who succeeded him, but without any sovereign rights, and on a diminished pension. The title of the present descendant of the once independent rulers of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, is now simply that of Nawab Bahadur of Murshidabad.

With the loss of its political importance the size and population of Murshidabad also declined. The largest dimensions of the city proper in 1759 are said to have been 5 miles along the Bhagirathi in length and 2½ miles in breadth on each bank of the river, while the circumference of its extensive suburbs has been put as high as 30 miles. In the beginning of the 19th century, by several estimates of the population; but we neither set in, we have which the city was then supposed to cover, nor the modes of enumeration adopted. In 1815 the number of houses was

estimated at 30,000 and the total population at 165,000 souls. In 1829 the Magistrate, Mr. Hawthorn, returned the population at 146,176. In 1837 Mr. Adam found the inhabitants of Murshidabad city to amount to 124,801 persons, which shows a decrease of nearly 15 per cent. in 8 years. At the time of the first regular census in 1872 the population of the city was 46,182 and it has since still further diminished. In 1901 excluding its suburb AZIMGANJ, which was formed into a separate municipality in 1896, its inhabitants numbered only 15,163.

**Buildings.** Murshidabad exhibits at the present day but few traces of its former grandeur. The chief object of attraction is the palace of the Nawab Bahadur on the banks of the Bhāgīrathī. It is a large and imposing pile of buildings in the Italian style designed by Colonel Macleod of the Bengal Engineers, but executed entirely by natives and finished in 1837. The edifice itself is called by the natives the *Hasār Duāri* or house of one thousand doors and windows, and together with other buildings enclosed within the same wall, it is known as the *Nizāmat kila* or fort. The palace is 425 feet long, 200 feet wide, and 80 feet high. The ground floor is made of stone, the first floor of marble and the second floor of wood. The banquetting hall is 191 feet long and 55 feet wide. In the centre of the building is a dome, from which hangs a vast and superb chandelier of 110 branches. The palace contains many rare old pictures, costly jewellery, china and arms. The residences of the Nawab Bahadur and the members of the Nizāmat family are a series of one-storied buildings, devoid of beauty and unsafe to live in.

The Imāmbāra (house of prayer), which was built directly in front of the northern principal door in the year 1897, is a fine structure and is considerably larger than the Imāmbāra at Hooghly. It stands on the site of a more celebrated building erected by Sirāj-ud-daula, which was accidentally burnt down in 1840.

About  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles to the east of the palace is the Topkhāna, the site of the artillery park of the Nawab Nāzim, and the erst entrance to the old city. Here is a large gun 17½ feet long with a girth of 5 feet at the breech, weighing 2½ mannds, which was made at Dacca during the reign of Shāh Jahān. The gun is now embedded in a *pipal* tree which has lifted it many feet above the ground. In the palace armoury is another gun, cast by Kishor Dās Karmakār, formerly the property of Mahārāja Krishna Chandra Rai of Nadia.

**Motijhil.** One-and-a-half miles south-east of the palace is the Motijhil, made in an old bed of the river Bhāgīrathī, in the shape of a horse-shoe, by Nawāzish Mubāshinād Khān, nephew and son-in-law of Ali Vardi Khān, who, with materials brought from the ruins of Gaur, built a stone hall (*Sangi-Dānāu*), Mahalsarai (harem), a mosque and out-offices, and lived here with his

beautiful wife, Ghaseti Begam. Motijhil was taken by Sirāj-ud-daula in 1756 after the death of Nawāzī-h Muhammad, and it was from here that he marched for the battle of Plassey. Mir Jafar built a garden house here in 1758. Lord Clive stayed at Motijhil in 1765 to negotiate the transfer of the *diwāni* to the Company, and again in 1766, when the first English *punā* or revenue collection was held here. Motijhil was also the residence of Warren Hastings, when he became Political Resident at the Court of Murshidābād, and of Sir John Shore in a similar capacity.

A mosque at Katra to the north-east of Motijhil, about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles <sup>Katra</sup> from the city of Murshidābād, contains the mausoleum of Murshid <sup>masjid.</sup> Kuli Khān, the founder of Murshidābād. This was for a long time the chief mosque of the city, and was a place of pilgrimage for devout Muhammadans, Murshid Kuli Khān being regarded as a saint.

Situated at a distance of about a mile from the palace at Jafarganj. Murshidābād, Jafarganj contains the old residence of Mir Jafar when he was commander-in-chief. His audience hall, since turned into an Imāmbāra, and his dwelling house still exist. Here the last secret conference before the battle of Plassey took place between him and Mr. Watts, the chief factor at Cosimbazar, who entered the house in a *pālki* as a *pardanishīn* woman. It is said that Sirāj-ud-daula was murdered here.

The Alubārak Manzil is a garden house  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles south-east of <sup>Alubārak</sup> the palace; the main buildings and the out-offices were built by the <sup>Manzil.</sup> East India Company, and the *Sadar Duvāni Adīlat* was held here from 1765 to 1781. Nawāb Humāyūn Jāh bought these buildings in the year 1831, and converted them, together with extensive adjoining lands, into a garden house now known as the Lal Bangala (Red Bungalow). On the terrace stood the throne of the Sūbahdārs of Bengal, which was made in 1643 at Monghyr and is a round table of black stone 6 feet in diameter, and 18 inches high, with four thick pedestals, the whole hewn out of one block. This has been removed to Calcutta, where it is to find a place in the Victoria Memorial Hall.

About 2 miles north of the city of Murshidābād is Mahimāpur, <sup>Mahimā-</sup> once the seat of the famous financier and banker Jagat Seth. <sup>pur.</sup> Here Watts and Walsh met Mir Jafar and Rājā Rai Durlabh, 3 days after the battle of Plassey, and conferred concerning the payment of the amounts stipulated for by them before the battle was fought. Clive, Watts, Sraffton, Meeran and Rai Durlabh were again present here on the 29th June, when Clive repudiated the agreement with Unichand. A portion of the house has been washed away by the river; the old place of worship, however, and some ruins remain to this day.

On the right bank of the river opposite Motijhil is the Khush- <sup>Khush-</sup> bāgh (or the garden of happiness), the old cemetery of Ali Vardī <sup>bāgh.</sup>

Khān, Sirāj-ud-daula and their family. It consists of three walled enclosures, in the centre of which is the principal cemetery, containing the remains of Ali Vardi Khān and Sirāj-ud-daula. The grounds are laid out as gardens with hedges bordering the walks, and contain many fine trees. On the same side of the river, opposite Jafarganj, are the lovely pleasure grounds of Hirañhil (lake of diamonds), and the palace at Mansūrganj constructed by Sirāj-ud-daula, before he became Nāzim of Bengal. It was at Mansūrganj palace that Clive seated Mir Jafar on the throne of Bengal after the battle of Plassey. Near this was the palace of Murādbagh, where Clive stayed on his entrance into the city after the battle. Only a portion of the foundation remains, and the greater portion of the Hirañhil has been cut away by the river Bhāgirathi. Also on the same side of the river is the Rosh-nibāgh, consisting of beautiful gardens containing the mausoleum of Shujā Khān, the second Nāzim of Bengal and Murshid Kuli Khān's son-in-law.

Arts and  
manu-  
factures.

The principal industries of Murshidābād are those fostered by the luxury of the native court. Carving in ivory is an old speciality of the city, and the artificers of the town, though now few in number, still produce highly finished work: other manufactures are the embroidery of fancy articles with gold and silver lace, the weaving of silk goods, the making of musical instruments and *hukkas*.

Municipal-  
ity.

Murshidābād was constituted a municipality in 1869. The average income for the decade ending in 1901-02 was Rs. 24,000 and the expenditure Rs. 23,000. In 1903-04 the income was Rs. 19,000, of which Rs. 5,500 was obtained from a tax on persons, and the expenditure was Rs. 18,000. The official name for Murshidābād is Lālbāgh as the head-quarters of the Lālbāgh sub-division, and it contains sub-divisional offices, a sub-jail with accommodation for 12 prisoners, and a dispensary with 22 beds. The two most important educational institutions are the Nawāb's *madrassa* intended exclusively for the relatives of the Nawāb Bahādur and the Nizāmat high school maintained by the Nawāb.

**Rāngamāti.**—Ancient town in the Berhampore sub-division, Murshidābād District, Bengal, situated in 24° 1' N. and 88° 11' E. on the right bank of the Bhāgirathi, 6 miles south of Berhampore. Population (1901) 400. The clay here rises into bluffs 40 feet high, which form the only elevated ground in the neighbourhood, and are very conspicuous from the river. Few remains have been found except pottery and the traces of buildings, tanks, and wells; but Rāngamāti is rich in traditional history. The legend respecting the origin of the name, which means "red earth," is that Bibhishana, brother of Ravana, being invited to a feast by a poor Brāhman at Rāngamāti, rained gold

on the ground as a token of gratitude. By others the miracle is referred to Blu Deb, who through the power of his austerities rained gold. Rāṅgāmāti has been identified by Mr. Beveridge with the city of Karna Suvarna, the capital of the old kingdom of the same name visited by the Chinese pilgrim Hiuen Tsiang about 639 A. D. It may also have been the site of the chief of the monasteries mentioned by Hiuen Tsiang as Lo-to-wei-chi-seng-ki-lan, a phonetic rendering of the Sanskrit *Raclariti saṅghārāma*.

After the Muhammadan conquest in 1203, Rāṅgāmāti (according to Mr. Long) formed one of the '10 *sauidāris* into which Bengal was then divided. Its Hindu zamīndār was a considerable person, and on the occasion of the great *punyā* at Motijhil in 1767 he received a *khilat* worth Rs. 7,278, or as much as the zamīndār of Nadiā. The site of Rāṅgāmāti was at one time selected in preference to Berhampore as a healthy spot for the erection of barraeks. The East India Company formerly had a silk factory here. All that is now left of this ancient town is a bungalow and a silk filature belonging to the Bengal Silk Company.

[H. Beveridge, *The site of Karna Suvarna, Journal of the Asiatic Society, Bengal*, vol. lxii, part i, No. 4; Col. Walford, *Asiatic Researches*, vol. ix, p. 39; and Capt. Layard, *Journal of the Asiatic Society, Bengal*, vol. xxii.]

Jessore District (*Yasohara*).—District of the Presidency Division, Bengal, lying between 22° 47' and 23° 47' N. and 88° 40' and 89° 50' E. with an area of 2,925 square miles. It is bounded on the north and west by the Nadiā District; on the south by Khulnā; and on the east by the Madhumati and Barāsia rivers which separate it from Farīdpur. Bound-  
aries,  
configura-  
tion and  
river  
system.

Jessore forms the central portion of the delta between the Hooghly and the Meghna estuary, and is an alluvial plain intersected by rivers and water-courses, which in parts of the south of the District spread out into large marshes. The river system was formerly supplied by the Padmā, and the rivers for the most part flowed across the District from the north-west to the south-east. The north-west of the District was gradually raised by their periodical inundations till their connections with the Padmā silted up, and the rivers with the sole exception of the Gami, which with its continuation the Madhumati is still an important offshoot of that river, ceased to be running streams, their beds degenerating into stagnant marshes during the greater part of the year. The District, which is entirely a fluvial formation, is thus naturally divided into two parts, the thickly populated country to the north, now raised by continual deposits beyond the reach of the inundations by which it was previously affected, declining towards the south into swampy tracts, where the rivers are tidal and the only parts suitable for habitation are

the high lands along their banks. The principal rivers, which are connected with one another by numerous cross-channels, are the GARAI and the MADHUMATI to the east, and proceeding from north to south, the KUMAR, Nabagangā, Chitrā, Kabadak, BHAIKAB and ICHAMATI. The last-mentioned rivers, which were originally distributaries of the Padmā, have now largely silted up in their upper reaches, and are in many cases entirely cut off from their parent stream. The Kumār, a branch of the Mātābhānga, discharges into the Nabagangā at Māgura; it is also connected with the Madhumati by the Little Bārāsia. The Nabagangā, also formerly an offshoot of the Mātābhānga, no longer gets any flood discharge from that river, and boat traffic is impracticable beyond Jhenida, while between Jhenida and Māgura it is only navigable for about three months in the year. The silting up process has extended as far south as Binodpur, below which it is navigable throughout the year. The Nabagangā formerly joined the Madhumati near Lohāgarā, but the connection has silted up and its waters now flow down the Bānkāna; this river divides into two branches at Patua, the eastern branch which flows into the Madhumati being known as the Kālā or Gāngnī river, while the western branch continues to be called the Bānkāna. The Kabadak, formerly an offshoot of the Mātābhānga, has silted up in its upper portion, but is navigable below Kotchāndpur by large boats throughout the year. The Bhairab, which leaves the Kabadak on its left bank above Tāhirpur, has similarly silted up in its upper reaches, the channel above Jessore being practically only a line of marshes. The Majudkhālī Khāl brings down some of the waters of the Chitrā to the Bhairab at Simultala, and the Bhairab is also connected with the Chitrā by the Gobra-Afiā Khāl. The Ichāmāti, which flows across the south-west corner of the District, is navigable in this part of its course throughout the year.

**Geology.** The District is covered by recent alluvial deposits consisting of sandy clay and sand along the course of the rivers, and fine silt consolidating into clay in the flatter parts of the river plain, where beds of impure peat also occur. Sand is found in large quantities only along the banks and *chars* of the Madhumati.

**Botany.** The stretches of low-lying land under rice cultivation afford a foothold for various marsh species, while the numerous ponds and ditches are filled with submerged and floating water plants. Remarkable among these for its rarity, and interesting on account of its distribution to Europe on the one hand and Australia on the other, is the floating *Drosera Aldrovanda*. The edges of sluggish creeks are lined with large sedges and bulrushes, and the banks of rivers have a hedge like scrub jungle. The sides of embankments and village sites, where not occupied by habitations, are densely covered with village shrubberies of semi-spontaneous species,

interspersed with clumps of planted bamboos and groves of *Arcea*, *Moringa*, *Mangifera*, and *Annona*. The *babul* (*Acacia arabica*) also grows in great abundance, and the banyan (*Ficus indica*), *pipal* (*Ficus religiosa*), tamarind (*Tamarindus indica*), and mulberry reach a large size. The north and east of the District are dotted with numerous groves of date palms (*Phoenix arealis*), and many of the principal roads are lined with fine avenues of banyans, casuarinas (*Casuarina muricata*) and mulberry trees. Waysides and waste places are filled with grasses and weeds, usually of little intrinsic interest but often striking because of their distribution; many of them have been inadvertently introduced by human agency, and include European or African and American species. There are no forests in the District.

Leopards were formerly common, and wild hogs are still very numerous in some parts of the District. The latter do great damage to growing crops, especially to sugarcane. Fauna.

The mean temperature for the year is 74°. The mean minimum rises from 53° in January to 79° in June, at which point it remains constant until September; the mean maximum is highest (97°) in April. The average rainfall is 60 inches, of which 7 fall in May, 11·3 in June, 10·4 in July, 10·7 in August and 7·7 in September. Tempera-  
ture and  
rainfall.

The country once formed portion of the old kingdom of Banga or Samatata, but the earliest traditions still current are associated with the name of Khānja Ali, who came to the District 4½ centuries ago. He obtained a *jāgir* from the king of Gaur and made extensive clearances in the Sundarbans, where he appears to have exercised all the rights of sovereignty till his death in 1459. He left numerous mosques and tombs, but most of these are in the Khulnā District. The next traditions are connected with Rājā Vikramāditya, one of the chief ministers of Daud Khān, the last king of Bengal, who obtained a grant in the Sundarbans and established a city to which he retired with his family and dependents. The vernacular name of the District is a corruption of Yasohara ("glory depriving", as it is said to have robbed Gaur of its pre-eminence), the name given by Vikramāditya to his capital city, the site of which was at ISWARIPUR in the Khulnā District. Vikramāditya was succeeded by his son Pratāpāditya, the popular hero of the Sundarbans, who gained predominance over the twelve chiefs or Bhuiyās who then held the south and east of Bengal; he was eventually defeated and captured by Rājā Mān Singh, the leader of Akbar's armies in Bengal from 1589 to 1606. The name Jessore continued to attach itself to the estates which Pratāpāditya had possessed. The military governor, who had charge of them, and who was located at Mirzānagar on the Kabadak, was called the *faujdar* of Jessore; and when the History.



head-quarters of the District were brought to Kasbā (where they now are), the name Jessore was applied to the town where the courts were located. Until 1786 the District was still nearly coterminous with Rājā Pratāpāditya's territories, but since that date large areas have from time to time been excised, and at the present day it covers barely one-half of its original area.

After the fall of Rājā Pratāpāditya those of his *parganas* which were situated within the present area of this District were divided into three zamindāris, that in the south being held by the Rājā of Jessore, known as the Chānehra Rājā, and that in the north by the Rājā of Naldānga, while the third, called the zamindāri of Bhūshana, fell into the hands of Rājā Sītā Rām Rai, concerning whom there are numerous legends in the north-east of the District. He was a *talukdār* of a village called Hariharanagar on the bank of the Madhumati river, and is said to have been deputed by the Nawāb of Dacca to collect his revenues, but as the revenues never went further than Sītā Rām himself, the Nawāb sent an army against him and at length succeeded in capturing him about the year 1712. The ruins of Sītā Rām's palace and the various large tanks which he constructed are still to be seen at Muhammadpur.

The Rājās of Jessore or Chānehra trace their origin to Bhābeswar Rai, a soldier in the army of an imperial general, who conferred on him several *parganas* taken from Pratāpāditya. He died in 1588, and was succeeded by his son Mahāb Rām Rai, who assisted Mān Singh against Pratāpāditya, and at the close of the war was allowed to retain the *parganas* made over to his father. To him succeeded Kandarpa Rai, who added considerably to the estates; and he in turn was followed by Manohar Rai (1649-1705), who is regarded as the principal founder of the family. The estate, when he inherited it, was of moderate size, but he acquired one *pargana* after another, until, at his death, the property was by far the largest in the neighbourhood. The estate then went to Krishna Rām, who was followed by Sukh Deb Rai (1729-45). The latter divided the estate into a three-quarters share and a one-quarter share, the former being called the Isafpur and the latter the Saidpur estate. The latter was given by Sukh Deb to his brother Syām Sundar, who died without issue, leaving it vacant. It was afterwards conferred by the East India Company upon a landholder in exchange for certain lands near Calcutta. The possessor of the property in 1814, Hāji Muḥammad Mohsin, made over the estate in trust for the Hooghly Imāmbāra, which has ever since enjoyed its revenues. Isafpur estate was inherited in 1764 by Sri Kanta Rai, who sustained such heavy losses about the time of the permanent settlement, that his family was left destitute and forced to fall back upon the bounty of the Government. His grandson Barādā Kanta, who succeeded in 1817, being

a minor, the property was administered by the Court of Wards, and its value greatly increased. In 1823 the Government added to his estate the confiscated *pargana* of Sāhos, and it subsequently bestowed on Baradā Kānta the title of Rājā Bahādur in recognition of services rendered by him during the Mutiny. He died in 1880, leaving three sons, the eldest of whom succeeded to the title and estates.

The revenue or financial administration (*darāni*) was transferred to the East India Company with that of the rest of Bengal in 1765, but it was not until 1781, when a court was opened at Murali near Jessore town, that British administration was completely established in the District. The first Judge and Magistrate was Mr. Henckell, who founded a market still known as Henckellganj, and was the first to urge upon the Government the scheme of Sundarbans reclamation (*see* SUNDARBANS). Mr. Locke, who succeeded him in 1789, transferred the civil station to Jessore, where it still remains. Among the Collectors of Jessore was Mr. R. Thackeray, father of the novelist, who acted in that capacity for a few months in 1805. The boundaries of the District have undergone frequent changes: extensive areas on the east and south have been taken away to form the Districts of Faridpur and Khulnā, while additions have been made from the 24-Pargannas and Nadiā on the west.

The population of the present area was returned at 1,451,507 The in 1872 and 1,939,375 in 1881, but it fell to 1,828,827 in 1891 people. and 1,813,155 in 1901. The apparent increase in 1881 was probably caused by the inaccuracy of the first census; the subsequent decline is due to the extremely insanitary conditions which prevail. The banks of the rivers are higher than the country behind them, and depressions are thus formed between the main water-courses. The drainage of these was always difficult, and it has now become almost impossible owing to the silting up of the mouths of the rivers and drainage channels. Stagnant swamps are thus formed, while good drinking water is scarce, and the homesteads are enveloped in dense jungle. It was in this District that cholera first appeared in a violently epidemic form in 1817. Here, too, twenty years later, originated that terribly fatal kind of fever, subsequently known as "Nadiā," and then as "Burdwān," fever, which decimated the population of the country from Jessore westwards as far as the Bishnupur sub-division of Bānkurā. The first known outbreak occurred near Muhammadpur among a body of some six hundred prisoners working on the road from Jessore to Dacca. In 1843 the epidemic seemed to disappear, but it again broke out in 1846. At the present time this malignant type of fever is not noticeable, but a milder form is very prevalent, which is relentlessly at work, destroying many and sapping the vitality of the survivors and

reducing their fecundity. Cholera is also prevalent, and small-pox, dysentery and diarrhoea claim many victims.

The salient statistics of the census of 1901 are reproduced below :—

SUB-DIVISION.	Area in square miles.	NUMBER OF		Popula- tion.	Num- ber of persons per square mile.	Percent- age of variation in popula- tion be- tween 1901 and 1891.	Number of persons able to read and write.
		Towns	Villages.				
Jessore ... ..	609	1	1,458	241,242	671	-5.6	37,416
Jhenida ... ..	415	1	834	101,801	642	-2.3	14,593
Magura ... ..	425	...	911	277,781	654	-5.5	12,434
Naili ... ..	487	...	810	332,231	723	-1.1	21,126
Bangson ... ..	619	1	795	317,792	490	-3.9	15,029
DISTRICT TOTAL ..	2,625	3	4,894	1,813,155	620	-4.0	105,102

The 3 towns are JESSORE, the head-quarters, KOTCHANDPUR and MAHERPUR; but they are all small (only one per cent. of the population being urban), and have all lost ground since 1891, though Kotechāndpur has a considerable trade. The population is densest in the east, where the soil is most fertile and still receives occasional deposits of silt, and most scattered in the Bangson sub-division to the west. The decadence already referred to is most marked in the country running west and south-west from the Muhammadpur thāna on the eastern boundary, the centre of both epidemic cholera and of the Burdwan fever. This unhealthy zone stretches eastwards and northwards beyond the Jessore boundary and includes the north-western part of Faridpur and a small area in the north-west of Khulnā. There is little migration except to and from the surrounding Districts. The language of the District is Bengali, the dialects spoken being the Eastern, or Musalmāni, and Central Bengali. Of the population 61 per cent. are Muhammadans and 39 per cent. Hindus.

Their  
castes and  
occupa-  
tions.

The bulk of the Muhammadans are Shaikhs (984,000), and these are probably in the main the descendants of converts from the aboriginal Namasūdras. This is the most numerous Hindu caste (175,000), but Kayasths (55,000), Muchis (48,000), Kaibarttas (45,000), Brāhmans (39,000), Mālos (27,000), Ahirs and Goālās (26,000) and Sāhās (21,000) are also well represented; a noted colony of Kulin Brāhmans resides at LAKSHMIPARA. Agriculture supports 71 per cent. of the population, industries 15 per cent., commerce 0.6 per cent. and the professions 1.9 per cent.

Christian  
missions.

Christians in 1901 numbered 912, of whom 867 were natives. The Baptist Missionary Society, the London Mission Society, and a Roman Catholic mission are at work in this District; of

these the Roman Catholic and Baptist missions have secured most converts.

The soil is fertile, but the northern part no longer receives the annual deposit of silt which used to enrich it. Here *aus* or autumn rice is the principal staple, but tobacco, sugarcane and various cold-weather crops are also grown. The low country in the south is chiefly under paddy cultivation, *aman* or winter rice predominating. Date palms are largely grown for the manufacture of sugar. They commence bearing when they are about 7 years old and continue to do so for about 25 years. The juice is collected from November to February, the yield of *gur* being about 15 to 20 seers per tree. Indigo was formerly extensively cultivated, but a large number of factories were closed in consequence of the disturbances of 1859-61 (of which some account will be found in the article on NADIA District), and its cultivation has now almost entirely disappeared. Cultivation has suffered much in the Jhenida sub-division from the drying up of the rivers; in the Māgura sub-division the area under *aman* rice is contracting owing to deficient floods, but that of *aus* and jute is extending. There is no artificial irrigation.

The principal agricultural statistics for 1903-04 are shown below, areas being in square miles:—

SUB-DIVISION.			Total.	Cultivated.	Culturable waste.
Jessore	...	...	889	506	24
Jhenida	...	...	475	309	15
Māgura	...	...	425	268	16
Narail	...	...	487	389	18
Bangson	...	...	619	389	14
TOTAL			2,925	1,861	67

Of the cultivated area it is estimated that 168 square miles are twice cropped. Rice is grown on 1,391 square miles. *Aman* rice is sown in April and May and reaped in November or December; the land for this crop is usually ploughed four times before sowing, and except in marsh lands the young shoots are transplanted in July. For *aus* rice the ground is ploughed five or six times and the seed is sown broadcast; the land on which it is grown generally yields a cold-weather crop as well. *Boro* rice land is hardly ploughed at all; the seed is scattered broadcast in the marshes as they dry up; and the shoots are transplanted when a month old, and sometimes again a month later. Other crops grown are gram (26 square miles), pulses, etc. (198 square miles), oilseeds including mustard, linseed and *til* (*Sesamum indicum*) (162 square miles), sugarcane (15 square miles); jute (48 square miles) and tobacco (82 square miles). On the

General  
agricultural  
conditions.

Agricultural  
statistics  
and  
principal  
crops.

occasion of the scarcity in the Māgura sub-division in 1897-98, Rs. 64,000 was advanced under the Agriculturists' Loans Act.

**Cattle.**

The cattle are poor. There are no regular pasture lands, but cattle are grazed on the banks of the numerous marshes and in the date-palm orchards.

**Arts and  
manufac-  
tures.**

Coarse cotton cloths are woven on hand-looms throughout the District. Mats and baskets are made by the Muohis and Donis, and have a large local sale. Cart-wheels are extensively made; those prepared in the Jhenida sub-division are largely sold at Bāduriā in the 24-Pargannas. Lime for white-washing and for eating with *pān* is prepared by Baitis from shells collected in the marshes by women of the Bāgdi caste. Gold and silver ornaments and iron and brass ware are manufactured. Lac bracelets are made at Lohūgāū by immigrants from the United Provinces. The date-palm sugar industry is of considerable local importance, but is gradually declining in spite of the imposition of countervailing duties on imported sugar; in 1900-01 there were 117 factories with an outturn of 235,000 maunds valued at 15·15 lakhs.

**Commerce.**

The principal imports are rice, and *sundri* (*Heritiera littoralis*) wood from Backergunge and the Sundarbans, cotton piece-goods, cotton twist, salt, kerosene oil, flour and potatoes from Calcutta, and coal from Burdwan. The principal exports are paddy, pulses, jute, linseed, tamarind, coco-nuts, unrefined sugar, oil-cake, hides, earthen jars, cart-wheels, bamboos, bones, betel-nuts, timber, *ghī* and fish, chiefly to Backergunge and Calcutta. Except in the Jhenida sub-division, where there is a large amount of cart traffic, most of the trade is carried by boats and is in the hand of Sāhū and Teli dealers, but considerable quantities of jute and bamboos are sent by rail to Calcutta. Kotohāndpur is the largest and Kesabpur the second largest centre of trade; Naldānga, Obangūcha, Māgura, Jhenida, Ohāndkhālī, Khājura, and Binodpur are important trading villages.

**Railways  
and roads.**

The central section of the Eastern Bengal State Railway connects Calcutta with Jessore, the head-quarters station, whence it runs south-east to Khulnā. This line is connected with the eastern section of the same railway by a branch from Bangaon to Rānāghāt. Excluding village tracks, the District contains 681 miles of roads, of which 117 miles are metalled; the most important are the Provincial road from Jessore to Calcutta and those connecting Jessore with Kesabpur and Jhenida, Kāliganj with Hansada, and Jhenida with Borai and Māgura. Road communication is best in the higher land in the head-quarters, Jhenida and Bangaon sub-divisions, where the silting up of the water communications has rendered them more necessary than elsewhere. There are 45 ferries.

**Water  
communi-  
cations.**

The rivers are in many cases no longer navigable in their upper reaches except during the rains, but lower down they are

tidal and carry large boats and small steamers throughout the year. Steamer services ply on alternate week days from Khulnā up the Athārābānki and Madhumatī as far as Muhammadpur; daily from Khulnā by Kālīa to Lohāgarā and by the Majudkhālī Chitrā-Ghorākhālī *Khāl* and the Nabagangā to Binodpur throughout the year and during the rains as far as Māgura; and on alternate week days from Kapilmuni up the Kabadak to Kotchāndpur, feeding the railway at Jhingerghācha. During the rains large boats ranging up to 2,000 maunds carry jute to the stations on the railway, while some go direct to Calcutta. Large passenger boats ply on the Nabagangā and Chitrā rivers and the channels connecting them with the railway stations.

There has been no famine in recent times; but there was some Famine. scarcity in the Māgura sub-division in 1897, when rice was sold at  $7\frac{1}{2}$  seers to the rupee. Advances were made under the Agriculturists' Loans Act, but Government relief was only necessary on a small scale.

For general administrative purposes the District is divided into 5 sub-divisions with head-quarters at JESSORE, JHENIDA, MĀGURA, NARĀL and BANGAON. The District Magistrate-Collector is assisted at head-quarters by a staff of 5 deputy magistrate-collectors; the sub-divisions of Māgura, Nārāl and Bangaon are in charge of deputy magistrate-collectors, while the sub-divisional officer of Jhenida is usually a Joint Magistrate. The sub-divisional officers of Bangaon, Jhenida and Nārāl are occasionally assisted by sub-deputy collectors.

District  
sub-divi-  
sions and  
staff.

The civil courts subordinate to the District and Sessions Judge, who is also Judge of Khulnā, are those of a Sub-Judge and 4 Munsifs at Jessore, 3 Munsifs at Nārāl and 2 each at Jhenida, Māgura and Bangaon. The total number of criminal courts is 23, including an Additional Sessions Judge, who is also employed for part of the year at Khulnā. The District had at one time an unenviable reputation for dacoity, but this is no longer the case. Petty rioting cases arising out of land disputes are common.

Civil and  
criminal  
justice.

At the settlement of Todar Mal the greater part of the District was included in *sarkār* Khalifatābād, but the small portion in the north-east formed part of *sarkār* Muhammadābād or Bhūshana. The District was subsequently divided chiefly among the great zamīndāris of Isāfpur, Saīdpur, and Muhammadshāhī. It was brought under assessment in 1772, but its Collectorate was not established till 1786, prior to which date the land revenue head-quarters were at Calcutta. Owing to the continuous changes of fiscal jurisdiction, comparison of the land revenue with that formerly paid is impossible. The present incidence amounts to only R. 0-11-2 per cultivated acre. Sub-division of property has gone on rapidly under English rule, and there are now 2,444 permanently settled estates, in addition to 70 small estates which

Land  
revenue.

are temporarily settled and 85 held direct by Government. Sub-infundation of holdings has also been carried on to an enormous extent. The average rate of rent is Rs. 2-15-4 per cultivated acre, but the amount varies according to the crops for which the land is suitable. The rates for rice land range from Rs. 1-8 to Rs. 12 per acre, for jute from Rs. 2-10 to Rs. 2-13, pulses and oil-seeds from Rs. 3 to Rs. 4-8, sugarcane from Rs. 3 to Rs. 7-8, vegetables from Rs. 3 to Rs. 9, date palms from Rs. 3-3 to Rs. 9, betel and coco-nut palms from Rs. 10 to Rs. 16, and *pin* gardens from Rs. 8 to Rs. 20, while homestead land fetches Rs. 10 to Rs. 15 and garden land Rs. 10 to Rs. 20 per acre. Rents are lowest in the less fertile Bangan sub-division, where the maximum rate for rice lands is Rs. 3 per acre. The average quantity of land held by each ryot is 8 acres. The *utbandi* system (see NADIA District) prevails in some parts of the District; *korsā* ryots who hold land under a middleman are numerous.

The following table shows the collections of land revenue and of total revenue, under the principal heads, in thousands of rupees:—

		1890-91.*	1890-91.	1900-01.	1903-04.
Land revenue	...	10,84	8,69	8,60	8,51
Total revenue	..	18,58	15,42	16,92	16,89

\* In 1890-91 the district did not include the sub-division of Pargana, which was subsequently transferred to it from Nadia.

Local and  
municipal  
govern-  
ment.

Outside the municipalities of JESSORE, KOTCHANDPUR and MANESPUR local affairs are managed by the District board with subordinate local boards in each sub-division. In 1903-04 the income of the District board was Rs. 1,70,000, including Rs. 99,000 derived from rates, and the expenditure was Rs. 1,68,000. Schemes for the reclamation of the river Bhairab, a standing source of unhealthiness, and for opening the Muobikhāli Khāl are under contemplation.

Public  
works.

The Helli fawcanal, one mile in length, excavated in 1901, connects the Madhumati and Nabaganga rivers in the Narai sub-division.

Police and  
jails.

The District contains 20 police stations and 10 outposts, and in 1903 the force subordinate to the District Superintendent of Police consisted of 5 inspectors, 43 sub-inspectors, 36 head-constables and 421 constables (including 38 town *chaukidars* and water police); in addition there is a rural force of 245 *daffadars* and 3,839 *chaukidars*. The District jail at Jessore has accommodation for 370 prisoners, and subsidiary jails at each of the sub-divisional outstations for 100.

The District is less advanced in respect of education than would Education. be expected from its proximity to Calcutta, and in 1901 only 5·8 per cent. of the population (11 males and 5 females) could read and write. The number of pupils under instruction was 34,000 in 1892-93 and 35,000 in 1900-01, while in 1903-04 43,000 boys and 4,000 girls were at school, being respectively 31·1 and 2·6 per cent. of the children of school-going age. The number of educational institutions, public and private, in that year was 1,367, including an Arts college, 85 secondary schools, 1,255 primary schools and 26 other special schools. The expenditure on education was 2·1 lakhs, of which Rs. 23,000 was met from Provincial funds, Rs. 41,000 from District funds, Rs. 600 from municipal funds and 1 lakh from fees. The principal educational institutions are the Victoria college at Narail and high schools at Kalia, Magura and Jessore.

In 1903 the District contained 12 dispensaries, of which Medical. 5 had accommodation for 30 in-door patients. At these the cases of 62,000 out-patients and 500 in-patients were treated during the year, and 2,000 operations were performed. The expenditure was Rs. 19,000, of which Rs. 1,700 was met by a Government subvention, Rs. 7,000 from local and Rs. 3,000 from municipal funds, and Rs. 8,000 from subscriptions.

Vaccination is compulsory only in municipal areas. During Vaccina- 1903-04 the number of persons successfully vaccinated was 54,000, tion. representing 29·9 per thousand of the population.

[Sir W. W. Hunter, *Statistical Account of Bengal*, vols. i and ii, 1875; Sir J. Westland, *Report on Jessore*, Calcutta, 1874.]

**Jessore Sub-division.**—Head-quarters sub-division of the Jessore District, Bengal, lying between 22° 47' and 23° 28' N. and 88° 59' and 89° 26' E. with an area of 889 square miles. The sub-division is an alluvial tract, containing some large marshes and traversed by streams which have now silted up except in the lower reaches. Its population was 561,242 in 1901, compared with 594,835 in 1891; in 1901 there were 631 persons to the square mile. It contains one town JESSORE (population 8,054), its head-quarters, and 1,488 villages. The principal marts are at BASANTIA, Jessore town, JILINGERGACHA, and KESARPUR.

**Jhenida Sub-division.**—North-western sub-division of the Jessore District, Bengal, lying between 23° 22' and 23° 47' N. and 88° 57' and 89° 23' E. with an area of 475 square miles. Its population was 304,899 in 1901, compared with 311,973 in 1891. It contains one town KORCHANDPUR (population 9,065) and 864 villages. Its head-quarters are at JHENIDA. The sub-division is a flat, alluvial plain, the surface of which has been raised by the inundations of the Ganges distributary system till it is now beyond the reach of ordinary floods, and no longer receives the deposits of silt which formerly enriched it. It contains the



most unhealthy portions of the District. The population has consequently receded, and the density is now 642 persons to the square mile. The principal marts are at Jhenida and Kot ohândpur.

**Magura Sub-division.**—North-eastern sub-division of the Jessoro District, Bengal, lying between  $23^{\circ} 16'$  and  $23^{\circ} 41'$  N. and  $89^{\circ} 25'$  and  $89^{\circ} 41'$  E. with an area of 425 square miles. Its population declined from 303,281 in 1891 to 277,381 in 1901 when there were 653 persons to the square mile. It contains 934 villages, including MAGURA its head-quarters, but no towns. The sub-division is a deltaic tract, the formation of which is very nearly finished except along its western border, which is still liable to inundation from the waters of the Madhumati. It contains some very unhealthy tracts and it is said to have been the focus of the Burdwan fever. The principal marts are at Mâgura and MUHAMMADPUR.

**Narâl Sub-division.**—South-eastern sub-division of the Jessoro District, Bengal, lying between  $22^{\circ} 58'$  and  $23^{\circ} 21'$  N. and  $89^{\circ} 23'$  and  $89^{\circ} 60'$  E. with an area of 487 square miles. Its population was 372,281 in 1901, compared with 348,637 in 1891. It contains 810 villages, including NARAI its head-quarters, but no towns. The sub-division, which is entirely alluvial, is less unhealthy than other parts of Jessoro, and being lower, it still receives occasional deposits of silt; it is thus more thickly populated and already has a density of 723 persons to the square mile. The principal marts are at Nurâl, Naldi and Lohâgarâ.

**Bangaon Sub-division.**—Western sub-division of the Jessoro District, Bengal, lying between  $22^{\circ} 52'$  and  $23^{\circ} 26'$  N. and  $88^{\circ} 40'$  and  $89^{\circ} 2'$  E. with an area of 649 square miles. Its population was 317,352 in 1901, compared with 330,201 in 1891. It is a land of semi-stagnant rivers, the soil is comparatively poor, and the sub-division is more thinly populated (489 persons to the square mile) than the rest of the District. It contains one town MAHESPUR (population 4,180) and 798 villages, including BANGAON its head-quarters. The principal marts are at Bangaon and Mahespur.

**Amrita Bazar (Mâgura).**—Village in the head-quarters sub-division of Jessoro District, Bengal, situated in  $23^{\circ} 9'$  N. and  $89^{\circ} 4'$  E. Population (1901) 1,148. It was formed by a family of landholders and named after their mother. A newspaper known as the *Amrita Bazar Patrikâ* was formerly published here, but is now printed in Calcutta.

**Bangaon Village.**—Head-quarters of the sub-division of the same name, Jessoro District, Bengal, situated in  $23^{\circ} 3'$  N. and  $88^{\circ} 50'$  E. on the Ichâmati. Population (1901) 3,660. Bangaon is a station on the central section of the Eastern Bengal State Railway, and is also connected with the eastern section of that

railway by a branch to Rānāghāt. It contains the usual public offices; the sub-jail has accommodation for 12 prisoners.

**Basantia.**—Village in the head-quarters sub-division of Jessore District, Bengal, situated in  $23^{\circ} 8' N.$  and  $89^{\circ} 22' E.$  on the Bhairab, 12 miles east of Jessore town. Population (1901) 1,420. It has a considerable trade in sugar and rice. Being the nearest point to Jessore to which boats of a large size can come, it may be said to serve as a port to that town; there is also a large country traffic by road between Basantia and Jessore.

**Jessore Town.**—Head-quarters of Jessore District, Bengal, situated in  $23^{\circ} 10' N.$  and  $89^{\circ} 13' E.$  on the Bhairab river. Population (1901) 8,054. The name Jessore was applied to the village of Kasbā when it was made the head-quarters of Jessore District. The town is situated on the Eastern Bengal State Railway, 74 miles from Calcutta and 35 miles from Khulnā. The villages of Purāna, Kasbā, Bāgehhar, Sankarpur and Chānehra lie within the municipal limits. The last contains the residence of the Rājās of Chānehra or Jessore (*see* JESSORE District), and the remains of a rampart and fosse by which it was once surrounded are still visible. Jessore was constituted a municipality in 1864. The average income for the decade ending in 1901-02 was Rs. 19,000 and the expenditure Rs. 18,000. In 1903-04 the income was Rs. 22,000, of which Rs. 10,000 was derived from a tax on houses and lands, and Rs. 5,000 from a conservancy rate; the expenditure in the same year was Rs. 21,000. The town possesses the usual public offices, including criminal, revenue and civil courts, District jail, a church, dispensary with 16 beds, a small public library, and a high school. The jail has accommodation for 370 prisoners; the industries carried on are brick-making, *surki* and *khoā* pounding, cane and bamboo work and the manufacture of coir mats and jute string. There are 3 printing presses, and a weekly newspaper and 2 monthly magazines with a large circulation are published. Part of the town is provided with a filtered water-supply, and it is proposed to extend this by the construction of large water-works.

**Jhenida Village.**—Head-quarters of the sub-division of the same name in Jessore District, Bengal, situated in  $23^{\circ} 33' N.$  and  $89^{\circ} 11' E.$  on the Nabagangā river, 28 miles north of Jessore town. Population (1901) 798. There is a large bazar with a trade in sugar, rice and pepper. Communication was formerly chiefly carried on by means of the river, but it has now to a great extent silted up and is navigable only below the town and for 3 months in the year. Jhenida is connected by road with the Chuādānga station on the Eastern Bengal State Railway. It contains the usual public offices; the sub-jail has accommodation for 11 prisoners.

**Jhingergācha.**—Village in the head-quarters sub-division of Jessore District, Bengal, situated in  $23^{\circ} 6' N.$  and  $89^{\circ} 8' E.$

on the Kabadak river. Population (1901) 736. Jhingergācha is a station on the Eastern Bengal State Railway, and steamers ply between it and Kapilmuni in Chulna District.

**Kesabpur.**—Village in the head-quarters sub-division of Jessore District, Bengal, situated in  $22^{\circ} 55' N.$  and  $89^{\circ} 13' E.$  on the Harihar river, about 18 miles south of Jessore town. It is a large centre of the sugar trade. An import trade in rice is carried on, and large quantities of earthen pots and vessels are manufactured in connection with the sugar industry. Another local manufacture is brass work.

**Kotchāndpur.**—Town in the Jhenida sub-division, Jessore District, Bengal, situated in  $23^{\circ} 25' N.$  and  $89^{\circ} 1' E.$  on the left bank of the Kabadak. Population (1901) 9,065. Kotchāndpur is the largest seat of the sugar trade and manufacture in the District. It was constituted a municipality in 1883. The average income for the decade ending in 1901-02 was Rs. 6,500 and the expenditure Rs. 5,900. In 1903-04 the income was Rs. 7,000, mainly from a tax on persons (or property tax) and a tax on vehicles, and the expenditure was Rs. 6,000.

**Lakshmipāsa.**—Village in the Narāl sub-division, Jessore District, Bengal, situated in  $23^{\circ} 11' N.$  and  $89^{\circ} 39' E.$  on the right bank of the Nabagangā river, where it joins the Hānkāna 10 miles east of Narāl. It is the home of a well-known colony of Kulin Brāhmins; the latter trace their origin to Rāmānanda Chakrabartī, who emigrated from Sarmangal near Kāila in Backergunge, a great Kulin settlement.

**Māgura Village.**—Head-quarters of the sub-division of the same name in Jessore District, Bengal, situated in  $23^{\circ} 20' N.$  and  $89^{\circ} 26' E.$  on the Nabagangā river, where the Muchikhālī Khāl brings down to it the waters of the Kumār. Population (1901) 1,148. It has a brisk trade in sugar and rice and a number of sugar refineries. Large numbers of reed mats are made here, and oil is manufactured from mustard seed. Māgura contains the usual public offices; the sub-jail has accommodation for 63 prisoners. It is protected from inundation by the Nabagangā embankment.

**Maheipur.**—Town in the Bangnon sub-division, Jessore District, Bengal, situated in  $23^{\circ} 21' N.$  and  $88^{\circ} 56' E.$  on the Kabadak river. Population (1901) 4,180. Maheipur was constituted a municipality in 1869. The average income for the decade ending in 1901-02 was Rs. 3,600 and the expenditure Rs. 2,700. In 1903-04 the income was Rs. 3,400, mainly from a tax on persons (or property tax), and the expenditure was Rs. 2,600.

**Muhammādpur.**—Village in the Māgura sub-division, Jessore District, Bengal, situated in  $23^{\circ} 24' N.$  and  $89^{\circ} 37' E.$  on the right bank of the Madhumatī. Population (1901) 44. Muhammādpur was formerly a large town, and a quadrangular fort,

many fine tombs and other remains bear testimony to its ancient greatness. The place is now very unhealthy, and it was in its neighbourhood that the virulent fever epidemic, best known as "Burdwān fever," was first noticed about 1840.

**Narāl Village.**—Head-quarters of the sub-division of the same name, Jessore District, Bengal, situated in  $23^{\circ} 10' N.$  and  $89^{\circ} 30' E.$ , 22 miles east of Jessore town on the Chitrā river, which is here very deep and affords a regular route for large boats throughout the year. Population (1901) 1,225. Narāl contains the usual public offices; the sub-jail has accommodation for 12 prisoners, and there is a good collegiate school teaching up to the first arts standard, with a hostel attached. The Narāl family are the leading landholders of Jessore District; and several works of public utility have been constructed by them.

**Khulnā District.**—District of the Presidency Division, Bengal, lying between  $21^{\circ} 38' N.$  and  $23^{\circ} 1' N.$  and  $88^{\circ} 54' E.$  and  $89^{\circ} 58' E.$  Its area, exclusive of 2,688 square miles in the SUNDARBANS on the south, is 2,077 square miles. It occupies the south central portion of the delta between the Hooghly and Meghna estuary, and is bounded on the north by Jessore District; on the east by Backergunge; on the west by the 24-Parganas; and on the south by the Bay of Bengal.

Bound-  
aries,  
configura-  
tion and  
river  
system.

The general shape of the District is an irregular parallelogram, and it may be divided into four parts: the north-western portion, where the land is well raised; the north-eastern portion, from the Jessore boundary down to the latitude of Bagherhat, where the land is low and covered with swamps; the central portion, also low-lying, but now brought under habitation and cultivation; and the southern portion, which forms the Khulnā Sundarbans, a tangled network of swamps and rivers, in the greater part of which tillage is impossible and there is no settled population. The whole District forms an alluvial plain intersected by rivers flowing from north to south; their banks, as in all deltaic Districts, stand higher than the adjacent country, and the land slopes away from them, thus forming a depression between the main lines of the rivers. They have, however, with the exception of the Madhumati, which forms the eastern boundary of the District, ceased to be true deltaic streams owing to the silting up of their heads. The MADHUMATI, with its continuation the Baleswar and its estuary the Haringhāta, still brings down a great quantity of the Ganges water to the sea. The other rivers are connected by numerous cross-channels and are known by a confusing multiplicity of names in different portions of their courses. The most important are the ICHAMATI, the JAMUNA and the Kabadak, which discharge into the sea by the Raimangal and Mālanā estuaries respectively, and the Bhairab, now a tributary of the Madhumati, though a great deal of its water finds its

way into the Bay of Bengal through the Rûpsa river. There are no lakes, but the District is studded with marshes, the largest of which, the Bayrâ Bîl, extends over 40 miles, but has to a great extent been brought under cultivation.

**Geology.** The District is covered by recent alluvium consisting of sandy clay and sand along the course of the rivers, and fine silt consolidating into clay in the flatter parts of the river plain, while beds of impure peat commonly occur.

**Botany.** In the north-west of the District there are extensive groves of date palms (*Phoenix acaulis*), especially on the outskirts of villages. The north-east and centre of the District are generally inundated during the rainy season, only the river banks and the artificial mounds on which habitations are situated rising above the water. These elevated embankments are, where not occupied by gardens, densely covered with a scrubby jungle or semi-spontaneous species from which riso bamboos, betel and coco-nut palms with a few taller trees, the commonest being the *Odina* and the most conspicuous the red cotton tree (*Bombax malabaricum*). The surface of the marshes shows either huge stretches of inundated rice or is covered with matted floating islets of sedges and grasses and various water lilies, the most striking of these being the *makana* (*Euryale ferox*). The forests of the Sundarbans in the south produce many varieties of timber and an abundant supply of firewood.

**Fauna.** The same forests also abound in tigers, leopards, wild buffaloes, hogs, wild cats, swamp deer, spotted deer, hog deer, barking deer, porcupines, otters and monkeys. Tigers are very numerous, and their ravages often interfere with the extension of cultivation. Crocodiles are common in the Madhumati and Bhairab and in all the rivers in the Sundarbans. Snakes of various kinds infest the whole District.

**Climate and rain-fall.** Statistics of temperature are not available. Rainfall commences early, and the annual fall is 65 inches, of which 6·5 inches fall in May, 12·6 in June, 12·8 in July, 11·8 in August, 8·8 in September and 4·9 in October. Serious floods occurred in 1885, 1890 and 1900, but they are less now than they were before the Madhumati had opened out its present channel and the other rivers had silted up at their heads. A cyclone accompanied by a storm-wave occurred in the Bagherhât sub-division in 1895.

**History.** In ancient times the District formed part of the old kingdom of Banga or Samatata, and subsequently of the Bâgri division of Bengal constituted by Ballâl Sen. The earliest traditions are, however, associated with the name of Khânja Ali, who came to the District 4½ centuries ago. He obtained a *jâgir* from the king of Gaur and made extensive clearances in the Sundarbans, where he appears to have exercised all the rights of sovereignty till his death in 1459. He covered the country with numerous mosques and tombs; the remains of some of which are

still to be seen at BAGHERHAT and Masjidkur. Vikramāditya, one of the chief ministers of Daud Khān, the last king of Bengal, obtained a grant in the Sundarbans when that monarch rebelled against the king of Delhi, and established at ISWARIRUN a city from which the District of JESSORE took its name. He was succeeded by his son Pratāpāditya, the popular hero of the Sundarbans, who gained pre-eminence over the twelve chiefs or Bhuiyās then holding possession of southern Bengal, but was eventually defeated and captured by Mān Singh. The present District of Khulnā was formed in 1882 out of the Khulnā and Bagherhāt sub-divisions of Jessore and the Sātkhira sub-division of the 24-Parganas, and its history after the British accession to the *durāni* is comprised in the accounts of those Districts.

The population has grown rapidly since 1872, the figures being 1,046,878 in 1872, 1,079,948 in 1881, 1,177,652 in 1891 and 1,253,043 in 1901. The increase is due to a large expansion of cultivation in the south, central and south-western portions of the District and a steady but less rapid growth in the marshy country to the north-east, on the confines of Faridpur. There has been a decrease of population in the north-western corner and in a narrow strip of country running from it first in a southerly and then in a south-easterly direction; in this tract fever is very prevalent. In the northern part of the Sātkhira sub-division the drainage is bad, there are numerous swamps, and malaria is always present. The other northern thānas are also low-lying, but though there are numerous marshes, the country is more open; and there is less jungle, while the stagnant pools and tanks which are so common in north Sātkhira are rarely to be seen. Dyspepsia, diarrhoea and dysentery are common when the river water becomes brackish, and cholera sometimes breaks out in an epidemic form. The salient statistics of the census of 1901 are reproduced below:—

SUB-DIVISION.	Area in square miles.	NUMBER OF—		Population.	Popu- lation per square mile.	Percentage of variation in popula- tion between 1891 and 1901.	Number of persons able to read and write.
		Towns.	Villages.				
Khulnā ... ..	649	1	250	401,763	619	+ 17.7	21,616
Bagherhāt .. ..	670	..	1,015	363,611	543	+ 6.0	21,779
Sātkhira .. ..	749	2	1,167	459,217	612	- 1.6	24,491
DISTRICT TOTAL ..	2,077*	3	3,441	1,253,043	603*	+ 6.4	66,385

\* These figures exclude 2,685 square miles in the Sundarbans. If this area be included, the density of the whole District is 263 persons to the square mile.

The 3 towns are KHULNĀ, the head-quarters, DURGATA and SĀTKHIRA. There is a large immigration from the Districts of

Backergunge, Jessore and Faridpur, which supply many of the cultivators on new clearances in the Sundarbans; some of these have settled permanently, but many are still domiciled elsewhere. The dialects spoken are the Eastern, or Musalmāni, and East Central Bengali. Hindus (619,123) and Muhammadans (632,216) are almost equally divided.

Their  
castes and  
occupations.

The bulk of the Muhammadans are Shaikhs (292,000) and Ajlāfs (285,000), while of the remainder the functional caste of Jolāhās (27,000) is the most largely represented. Probably most of these are descended from local converts from Hinduism, and chiefly from the Chendāls (Namasūdiās) and Pods, who still number 191,000 and 105,000 respectively. Of other castes Kayasths (39,000), Kūibartās (36,000) and Brāhmins (31,040) are the most numerous. Agriculture supports 77 per cent. of the population, industries 11·7 per cent. and the professions 1·8 per cent.

Christian  
Missions.

Christians in 1901 numbered 1,275, including 1,228 native Christians, the most important mission at work being the Baptist Missionary Society, which has 18 churches and 24 schools, mostly among the cultivating classes in the Sundarbans. The Oxford Mission has a station at Shelaburiā on the Pusur about 30 miles south of Khulnā, and some Roman Catholics at Mālgāchi, also in the Sundarbans, are visited occasionally by their priests.

General  
agricul-  
tural  
conditions.

The clay land of the river plain (*mathidā*) is most suitable for rice, while cold weather crops, such as pulses, oilseeds and the betel creeper (*Piper betel*), grow best on the sandy clay known as *dodshia*. In the decomposed vegetable deposits of the marshes, winter rice of the coarsest sort is the only crop grown. Except in the higher land and in the north of the Sātkhira sub-division, partial failure of crops is not uncommon owing to the deposits of salt left by the sea. The south-west of the District suffers especially from this cause; elsewhere the salt is as a rule annually washed away during the rainy season, and the soil is renovated by the deposits left by the overflow of the rivers. The cultivators in some places put up small *bāndhs*, known locally as *bheris*, to keep out the salt water. It is estimated that in 1903-04, 1,343 square miles were cultivated and that the cultivable waste amounted to 334 square miles; separate statistics for the sub-divisions are not available.

Chief  
agricul-  
tural  
statistics  
and prin-  
cipal  
crops.

Rice is the staple food grain, covering 1,213 square miles. The principal crop is the winter variety, for which the reclaimed portions of the Sundarbans are famous; the soil is here new and unexhausted, and the outturn is abundant. In the Sundarbans this crop is sown broadcast in the early part of July and reaped in January. Elsewhere it is sown in nurseries during April and May, transplanted about July, and reaped in November and December; in low lands, however, it is occasionally sown broadcast. Oilseeds, principally mustard, are grown in 100 square miles,

while jute covers 14 and tobacco 8 square miles. Date palms (*Phenix acaulis*) and betel-nuts (*Areca Catechu*) are also largely grown. Fisheries are plentiful, and fishing constitutes an important industry.

Cultivation is being steadily extended into the shallow *bis* Improve-  
which form so marked a feature of this part of Bengal. In the <sup>ments in</sup> south progress is being made in pushing back the jungle of the <sup>agricul-</sup> Sundarbans, where the new clearances attract cultivators not only <sup>tural</sup> practice.  
from other parts of the District, but also from Nadiā, Jessore, Faridpur and elsewhere. There was some scarcity in 1896-98, when Rs. 69,000 was advanced under the Agriculturists' Loans Act; the annual average of the sums advanced under that Act in the 10 years ending in 1901-02 was Rs. 7,000, while the sums advanced under the Land Improvement Loans Act averaged Rs. 5,000 per annum.

There is little real pasture land in the District, and fodder Cattle. is scarce. No attempts have been made to improve the breed of cattle, which is very poor.

The Forest department administers 2,081 square miles of <sup>Forests.</sup> reserved forests in the Sundarbans, but this area includes 533 square miles of water channels; large quantities of forest produce are exported from them to the adjoining Districts. The principal trees are *sundri* (*Heritiera littoralis*), *pasur* (*Carapa Moluccensis*), *amur* (*Amoora cucullata*), *keorā* (*Sonneratia apetala*), *garāu* (*Cerisps candolleana*), *georā* (*Excoecaria agallocha*). The minor produce consists of *golpāta* (*Nipa frutescens*), *hantāl* (*Phoenix ptiludosa*), *nal* or thatching grass, honey wax and shells. The gross revenue from the forests in 1903-04 was 3·33 lakhs.

The chief industry is the manufacture of sugar and molasses, <sup>Arts and</sup> but for some years it was seriously affected by the competition of <sup>manufac-</sup> imported sugar. The outturn of sugar in 1903-04 was 19,000 <sup>tures.</sup> maunds valued at 1·96 lakhs, and of molasses 68,000 maunds valued at 1·83 lakhs. The earthen pottery, outlery and horn industries of Kaliganj are of considerable importance. Coarse cloths are manufactured on hand-looms and are said to be preferred by the poorer classes to machine-made goods on account of their durability, but the industry is not flourishing.

The chief exports are rice and paddy to Calcutta, 24-Parganas, <sup>Com-</sup> Nadiā and Jessore, and gram, pulses, oilseeds, jute, tobacco <sup>merce.</sup> (unmanufactured), sugar (unrefined), firewood, timber, minor forest produce, *pāu* leaf, betel-nuts, coco-nuts and fish to Calcutta. The chief imports are raw cotton, cotton twist, European cotton piece-goods, hardware, glassware, sugar (refined), shoes, English liquors, kerosene oil, coal and coke, lime and tobacco. The chief trade centres are at Khulnā, Daulatpur, Phultalā, Alipur, Kapilmuni, Chaknagar, Chaluā, Jalnā, Dumriā and Kutirhāt, all in the head-quarters sub-division, at Bāgheihāt.



Pakīrhāt, Maunsha, Jātrāpur, Kachua, Chitalmāri, Gaurambha, and Morrelganj in the Bāghorhāt sub-division, and at Baradal, Pātkelghāta, Kāliganj, Kalāroā, Debhāta, Chānduriā, Basantpur, Asāsum, Talā and Naobānki in the Sātkhira sub-division. The principal castes engaged in trade are Kāyasths, Telis, Bārais, Sāhās, Mālos, Baniks, Namasūdras and Muhammadans.

Railways  
and roads.

The Eastern Bengal State Railway connects Khulnā with Jessore and Calcutta. In 1903-04 the District contained 490 miles of roads, of which only 12 miles were metalled, in addition to 1,031 miles of village tracks. The principal are those connecting Khulnā with Jessore and Bāghorhāt.

Water  
communi-  
cations.

The larger rivers are for the most part tidal and navigable by large boats throughout the year, and they carry a great amount of traffic. Some of the connecting channels form portion of a very important system of waterways connecting Calcutta with the eastern Districts, and also with the Ganges and the Brahmaputra systems (see CALCUTTA and EASTERN CANALS). The central mart of the Sundarbans is the town of Khulnā, towards which all the great boat routes converge. The chief route, after reaching the junction of the Kabadak with the Morirehap river, proceeds by the latter as far as its junction with the Betua and the Kholpetuā, where it divides into two channels. The large boats pass along the Kholpetuā, Galghasiā, Bānstala and Kānksālī channels to Kāliganj, while the smaller boats enter the Sovnālī at its junction with the Kholpetuā and proceed to Kāliganj by the Guntiākhālī, Hābra Sitalkhālī, Jhapjhapia and Kānksālī; the route through the Sitalkhālī has been shortened since the opening of the Gobinda canal, and boats of all sizes now pass through it. From Kāliganj the route proceeds through the Jamunā as far as Basantpur, where it again divides forming an inner and an outer passage. The outer passage enters the 24-Parganas through the Kāḷindrī river and the Śahibkhālī and Barakulīā *Khāls*, while the inner passage proceeds by the Jamunā from Basantpur to Hūsainābād, where it enters a channel called the Hūsainābād or Dhānsara *Khal*. From Khulnā, routes branch off north, east and south; the chief northern route proceeds up the Athārā-bānki, the Madhumatī and the Garai into the Padmā or main channel of the Ganges, and carries the river trade not only of northern Bengal but also of Bihār, during the season when the Nadiā rivers are closed. In recent years, the silting up of this route has led to its abandonment by steamers. The eastern route from Khulnā passes down the Bhairab and then by Barisāl through the Backergunge District to Dacca. The main southern route connects Khulnā with Morrelganj.

In addition to the Cāchār-Sundarbans despatch service which plies from Calcutta through the Sundarbans to Barisāl, Chāndpur,

Nārāyanganj and Assam, there are services of steamers between Khulnā and Muhammadpur, Khulnā and Binodpur and (during the rains) Māgura and Khulnā and Mādāripur via the Madhnamati Bil route (see FARIDPUR District). There is also a service on the Kaladak between Kapilmuni in Khulnā and Kotchandpur in the Jessore District, which taps the railway at Jhingergācha.

The famine of 1897-98 affected parts of the Khulnā and Famine. Sātkhira sub-divisions. The rainfall was deficient in 1895-96, and a cyclonic storm drove salt water into the fields and destroyed the young plants. The rainfall was again very short in 1896-97, and the outturn of the great rice area bordering on the Sundarbans barely amounted to an eighth of the normal crop. An area of 467 square miles with a population of 276,000 was affected, but the number requiring relief never exceeded 16,000. The relief works were closed at the end of September, but poor houses were maintained till a month later. The total expenditure was 1·74 lakhs, of which Rs. 61,000 was spent on relief works and Rs. 75,000 on gratuitous relief. Apart from this, Rs. 48,000 was advanced under the Land Improvement Loans Act and Rs. 69,000 under the Agriculturists' Loans Act.

For general administrative purposes the District is divided into 3 sub-divisions with head-quarters at KHULNĀ, BAGHERHAT, and SĀTKHIRA. The District Magistrate-Collector is assisted at head-quarters by a staff of 4 Deputy Magistrate-Collectors, and the Bagherhat and Sātkhira sub-divisions are each in charge of a Deputy Magistrate-Collector assisted by a sub-deputy collector. A deputy conservator of forests and two extra assistant conservators attached to the Sundarbans division are also stationed at Khulnā.

For the disposal of civil work in addition to the District and Civil and Sessions Judge, who is also Judge of Jessore, 2 Munsifs and Criminal at a Subordinate Judge sit at Khulnā and 3 Munsifs at each of the other sub-divisional head-quarters. There are in all 12 criminal courts, including the court of an Additional Sessions Judge, who also sits at Jessore for a portion of the year. The most common cases are those which arise out of land disputes.

The early land revenue history of the District cannot be distinguished from that of the neighbouring Districts of Jessore, Land and the 24-Parganas, of which until recently it formed part. revenue. At the time of the permanent settlement, most of the present District was divided into a few large zamindaris including portions of the Isāspur and Saīdpur estates (see Jessore District). Of 979 estates in 1803-04 with a current demand of 6·9 lakhs, 756 with a demand of 5·1 lakhs were permanently settled. There are no tenures peculiar to the District. *Urbāni* tenants pay rent only upon the land actually cultivated during the year (see NADIA District). *Korā* ryots hold under a middleman

such as a *gānthidār* or *jotdār*, *midā* ryots are liable to ejectment after a fixed period, *kistkār* ryots are tenants-at-will, while the occupants of *jula jamā* and *dhānya karārī* holdings pay rent in kind. For the whole District the incidence of rental is Rs. 4-3-2 per cultivated acre, but rents vary greatly, ranging from Rs. 4-8 to Rs. 9 per acre in the Khulnā sub-division, from Rs. 3 to Rs. 18 in Bāgherhāt, and from Rs. 3 to Rs. 7 in Sātkhira. *Pān* and garden lands bring in between Rs. 6 and Rs. 9 in Bāgherhāt, and between Rs. 9 and Rs. 18 in Khulnā, while in Sātkhira as much as Rs. 30 is occasionally paid for garden and Rs. 52 for *pān* land. In a settlement of a small tract which was made in 1901-02 the rate of rent varied from Rs. 2-13 to Rs. 6 per cultivated acre, the average rate being Rs. 4-6-6, and the average holding of each tenant 12-28 acres.

The following table shows the collections of land revenue and of total revenue, under the principal heads, in thousands of rupees:—

		1892-93.	1890-91.	1901-02.	1903-04.
Land revenue	...	3,01	6,41	6,69	6,86
Total revenue	...	6,23	11,19	13,21	14,23

Local and municipal government.

Outside the municipalities of KHULNĀ, SĀTKHIRA and DEHHĀTA, the local affairs are managed by the District board with subordinate local boards in each sub-division. In 1903-04 the income of the District board was Rs. 1,95,000, of which Rs. 1,03,000 was derived from rates, and the expenditure was Rs. 1,56,000, including Rs. 98,000 spent on civil works and Rs. 35,000 on education.

Police and jails

The District contains 13 police stations and 9 out-posts, and in 1903 the force subordinate to the District Superintendent of Police consisted of 3 inspectors, 35 sub-inspectors, 36 head-constables and 394 constables, including 41 water constables and 57 town police. In addition there was a rural police of 239 *daffadārs* and 2,155 *chaukidārs*. The District jail at Khulnā has accommodation for 49 prisoners, and subsidiary jails at Sātkhira and Bāgherhāt for 47.

Education.

In respect of education Khulnā is less advanced than would be expected from its proximity to Calcutta, and in 1901 only 6·9 per cent. of the population (12·4 males and 1·8 females) could read and write. The total number of pupils under instruction fell from 38,000 in 1892-93 to 34,000 in 1900-01; in 1903-04, 34,000 boys and 3,000 girls were at school being, respectively, 34·7 and 3·4 per cent. of the children of school-going age. The number of educational institutions, public and private, in that year was 1,009, including an Arts college, 91 secondary schools,

909 primary schools and 8 other special schools. The expenditure on education was 1·8 lakhs, of which Rs. 2,1000 was met from Provincial funds, Rs. 34,000 from District funds, Rs. 1,000 from municipal funds and Rs. 96,000 from fees.

In 1903 the District contained 11 dispensaries, of which 3 Medical. had accommodation for 41 in-door patients. At these the cases of 79,000 out-patients and 500 in-patients were treated during the year, and 2,000 operations were performed. The expenditure was Rs. 13,000, of which Rs. 1,100 was met by Government contributions, Rs. 7,000 from local and Rs. 2,000 from municipal funds and Rs. 4,000 from subscriptions.

Vaccination is compulsory only in municipal areas. During 1903-04 the number of persons successfully vaccinated was 32,000 or 26·28 per thousand of the population.

[Sir W. W. Hunter, *Statistical Account of Bengal*, vols. i and ii, 1875; Sir J. Westland, *Report on Jessore, Calcutta*, 1874; F. E. Pargiter, *Revenue History of the Sundarbans from 1765 to 1870*, Calcutta, 1885.]

**Khulnā Sub-division.**—Head-quarters sub-division of the Khulnā District, Bengal, lying between 21° 41' and 23° 1' N. and 89° 14' and 89° 45' E. with an area of 649 square miles. The sub-division is an alluvial tract, merging to the south in the Sundarbans; the general features of this tract are the same as those of the lower delta through which the rivers of Bengal find their way to the sea. Its population was 401,785 in 1901, compared with 341,493 in 1891, the density being 619 persons to the square mile. It contains one town KHULNĀ, its head-quarters (population 10,426) and 929 villages. Khulnā town is the chief centre of trade, but ALAIPUR, DAULATPUR, DUMRIA, PHULTALA, and KAPILMUNI are also important marts.

**Bagherhāt Sub-division.**—Eastern sub-division of the Khulnā District, Bengal, lying between 21° 44' and 22° 59' N. and 89° 32' and 89° 58' E. with an area of 679 square miles. The north of the sub-division is low-lying and contains numerous swamps, but the country is more open and there is less jungle than in the Sātkhira sub-division. To the south the country merges in the Sundarbans, where the land is being steadily reclaimed. Its population was 363,041 in 1901, compared with 340,559 in 1891, the density being 535 persons to the square mile. The sub-division contains 1,045 villages but no towns. Its head-quarters are at BAGHERHĀT, a place containing several antiquities of interest. The chief trade centres are MORRELGAON and KACHUA.

**Sātkhira Sub-division.**—Western sub-division of the Khulnā District, Bengal, lying between 21° 38' and 22° 57' N. and 88° 54' and 89° 23' E. with an area of 749 square miles. The northern part of the sub-division resembles in its general

physical characteristics the adjoining thānas of Jessore; the drainage is bad and there are numerous swamps. The southern portion includes a large area in the Sundarbans, where there is much fertile land awaiting reclamation. Its population was 488,217 in 1901, compared with 495,000 in 1891, there being 652 persons to the square mile. It contains 2 towns, SĀTKHĪRA, its head-quarters (population 8,356), and DEBHĀTA (5,454), and 1,467 villages. ISWARIPUR was the old capital of Rājā Pratāpāditya. DEBHĀTA and KALIGANJ are trading centres.

**Alaipur.**—Village in Khulnā District, Bengal, situated in 22° 49' N. and 89° 39' E. at the junction of the Athārābānki and Bhairab rivers. Population (1901) 1,190. It has some local trade and pottery is largely manufactured.

**Bāgherhāt Village.**—Head-quarters of the sub-division of the same name in the Khulnā District, Bengal, situated in 22° 40' N. and 89° 47' E. on the Bhairab. Population (1901) 1,124. In the neighbourhood are the ruins of several buildings left by Khānja Ali, the pioneer settler in the Sundarbans (*see* KHULNĀ District), including a brick-built road from the bank of the Bhairab, a large hall known as the Shāt Gumbaz and the mausoleum of Khānja Ali. There is a large bi-weekly market, and an annual fair lasting for a month is held on the occasion of the Sripānchamī. The village contains the usual public offices, a sub-jail with accommodation for 35 prisoners, and a Government aided school.

**Daulatpur.**—Village in the head-quarters sub-division of Khulnā District, Bengal, situated in 22° 53' N. and 89° 32' E. on the Bhairab river. Population (1901) 808. Daulatpur has a large trade in betel-nuts. It is a station on the Eastern Bengal State Railway and contains an Arts college and high English school and the *tahsil kucheri* of the Saidpur Trust estate.

**Debhāta.**—Town in the Sātkhira sub-division, Khulnā District, Bengal, situated on the Jamunā in 22° 34' N. and 88° 53' E. Population (1901) 5,454. There is a local trade in *sundri* wood (*Heritiera littoralis*), and lime is manufactured from shells. Debhāta was constituted a municipality in 1876. The average income and expenditure during the decade ending in 1901-02 were Rs. 2,000 each. In 1903-04 the income was Rs. 2,000, mainly from a tax on persons (or property tax), and the expenditure was Rs. 1,800.

**Dumriā.**—Village in the head-quarters sub-division of Khulnā District, Bengal, situated in 22° 48' N. and 89° 26' E. on the Bhadra river. Population (1901) 3,847. It possesses an extensive trade in rice, and boats are largely manufactured.

**Iswaripur.**—Village in the Sātkhira sub-division, Khulnā District, Bengal, situated in 22° 19' N. and 89° 7' E. on the Jamunā river. Population (1901) 362. It was formerly known

as Yasohara and was in the 17th century the capital of Rājā Pratāpāditya, the popular hero of the Sundarbans. [See the article on the Jessore District, also Report on Jessore by Sir J. Westland, Calcutta, 1874, p. 23.]

**Kachua.**—Village in the Bāgherhāt sub-division of Khulnā District, Bengal, situated in 22° 39' N. and 89° 53' E. at the junction of the Bhairab and Madhumatī rivers. Population (1901) 247. Kachua is one of three market places established by Mr. Henckell in the Sundarbans in 1782-83; the other two Chāndkhālī and Henckellganj are now of no importance, but Kachua has still a large bazar. The principal export is rice; large quantities of *kachu*, a kind of yam, are also grown from which the village possibly derives its name.

**Kāliganj.**—Village in the Sātkhira sub-division, Khulnā District, Bengal, situated in 22° 27' N. and 89° 2' E. on the Kānkālī river. Population (1901) 47. Kāliganj lies on the boat-route between Calcutta and the eastern Districts, and has a large bazar and considerable local trade. It is also noted for its manufacture of earthen-ware, pottery, horn and cutlery.

**Kapilmuni.**—Village in the head-quarters sub-division of Khulnā District, Bengal, situated in 22° 42' N. and 89° 19' E. on the Kabadak. Population (1901) 362. Kapilmuni is connected by steamer service with the Jhingergācha station of the Eastern Bengal State Railway, and possesses a bi-weekly market. A large annual fair is held in March in honour of the goddess Kapileswarī and is attended by 6,000 or 7,000 persons.

**Khulnā Town.**—Head-quarters of Khulnā District, Bengal, situated in 22° 49' N. and 89° 34' E. at the point where the Bhairab river meets the Sundarbans. Population (1901) 10,426. Khulnā may be described as the capital of the Sundarbans, and has been for more than 100 years a place of commercial importance. It was the head-quarters of the salt department during the period of the Company's salt manufacture. It is the terminus of the central section of the Eastern Bengal State Railway, and all the great river routes converge on the town; it being connected by steamer with NARAYANGANJ, BĀRISAL, MADARIPUR, Muhammadpur and Binodpur. Rice, sugar, betel-nuts and coco-nuts, the produce of its vicinity, are collected here for export to Calcutta, and the trade in salt is also large. Khulnā was constituted a municipality in 1884. The average income for the decade ending in 1901-02 was Rs. 22,000 and the expenditure Rs. 20,000. In 1903-04 the income was Rs. 19,000, including Rs. 4,600 derived from a tax on persons (or property tax), Rs. 3,500 from a tax on houses and lands, and Rs. 4,600 from a conservancy rate, while the expenditure was Rs. 17,000. The municipality has recently engaged on a scheme for improving the drainage. The town contains the usual civil, criminal and revenue courts, District

jail, circuit house, hospital and schools. The jail has accommodation for 40 prisoners; the principal industries are oil-pressing, wheat-grinding, paddy-husking, mat-making, aloes-pounding and rope-making. The Woodburn Hospital was completed during 1901 at a cost of Rs. 18,000.

**Morrelganj.**—Village in the Bāgherhāt sub-division, Khulnā District, Bengal, situated in 22° 27' N. and 89° 52' E. on the Panguchi, 2½ miles above its confluence with the Baleswar or Haringhata, of which it is a feeder. Population (1901) 972. Morrelganj was formerly the property of Messrs. Morrel and Lightfoot, who converted this part of the country from impenetrable jungle into a prosperous rice-growing tract dotted with thriving villages. The river, which here is tidal, is about a quarter of a mile broad, with deep water from bank to bank, affording good holding ground for ships, with a well sheltered anchorage. It was declared a port by the Government of Bengal in November 1869, and buoys were laid down in the following month, but the effort to make it an entrepôt for sea-going trade was not attended with success. Its position on a fine navigable river, commanding a rich rice country, still, however, renders it a great centre of local trade. It is an important steamer station of the Cāchār-Sundarbans service.

**Phultalā.**—Village in the head-quarters sub-division of Khulnā District, Bengal, situated in 22° 58' N. and 89° 29' E. on the Bhairab river. Population (1901) 3,911. It has a brisk sugar manufacture and a large trade in rice, betel-leaves, etc. Phultalā is a station on the Eastern Bengal State Railway, and is also connected with Khulnā by a good road.

**Sātkhira Town.**—Head-quarters of the sub-division of the same name, Khulnā District, Bengal, situated in 22° 43' N. and 89° 5' E. on a *khāl* connected with the Iohamatī river. Population (1901) 8,356. Sātkhira was constituted a municipality in 1869. The average income for the decade ending in 1901-02 was Rs. 4,600 and the expenditure Rs. 4,500. In 1903-04 the income was Rs. 7,500, mainly from a tax on persons (or property tax), and the expenditure was Rs. 6,500. The town contains the usual public offices, a sub-jail with accommodation for 12 prisoners, as well as many Hindu temples.

*Cross-references (for Imperial Gazetteer only).*

**Ajimganj.**—Town in Murshidābād District, Bengal. See AJIMGANJ.

**Bahrampur.**—Sub-division and town of Murshidābād District, Bengal. See BAHAMPUR.

**Baj-Baj.**—Town in the 24-Parganas District, Bengal. See BUDGE-BUDGE.

- Ballyganee.**—Suburbs of Calcutta. *See* CALCUTTA.
- Barhampur.**—Sub-division and town of Murshidābād District, Bengal. *See* BERNAMPUR.
- Barnagore.**—Town in the 24-Parganas District, Bengal. *See* BARANAGAR.
- Bongong.**—Sub-division and village in Jessore District, Bengal. *See* BANGAON.
- Chitpur.**—Suburbs of Calcutta. *See* COSSIMPORE-CHITPUR.
- Comercolly.**—Town in Nadiā District, Bengal. *See* KUMAR-KHALI.
- Dam-Dama.**—Cantonment and town in the 24-Parganas District, Bengal. *See* DUM-DUM.
- Dhurrumtolla.**—Street and Eurasian quarter in Calcutta, Bengal. *See* CALCUTTA.
- Fort William.**—Fort in Calcutta, Bengal. *See* CALCUTTA.
- Fulta.**—Village in the 24-Parganas District, Bengal. *See* FAITA.
- Jainagar.**—Town in the 24-Parganas District, Bengal. *See* JAYNAGAR.
- Jhanida.**—Sub-division and village in Jessore District, Bengal. *See* JHENIDA.
- Kasbā.**—Old name of Jessore town, Bengal.
- Kāsimbāzār.**—Decayed town in Murshidābād District, Bengal. *See* COSSIMBAZAR.
- Kāsipur-Chitpur.**—Town in the 24-Parganas District, Bengal. *See* COSSIMPORE-CHITPUR.
- Kidderpore.**—A quarter of Calcutta containing the docks. *See* CALCUTTA.
- Kooshtea.**—Sub-division and town in Nadiā District, Bengal. *See* KUSHITA.
- Lālbāgh Town.**—Official name for the town of MURSHIDABAD, Murshidābād District, Bengal. Head-quarters of the Lālbāgh sub-division.
- Maheshpur.**—Town in Jessore District, Bengal. *See* MAHES-PUR.
- Maksūdābād.**—Old name of Murshidābād town, Murshidābād District, Bengal. *See* MURSHIDABAD.
- Mātla.**—Village in the 24-Parganas District, Bengal. *See* CANNING, PORT.
- Miharpur.**—Sub-division and town in Nadiā District, Bengal. *See* MENERPUR.
- Murshidābād Sub-division.**—Sub-division in Murshidābād District, Bengal. *See* LALBAGH.
- Nadiā Town.**—Town in Nadiā District, Bengal. *See* NABADWIP.
- Nadiyā.**—District and town in Bengal. *See* NADIA and NABADWIP.



North Barrackpore.—Town in the 24-Parganas District, Bengal. *See* BARRACKPORE.

North Dum-Dum.—Town in the 24-Parganas District, Bengal. *See* DUM-DUM.

Nuddea.—District and town in Bengal. *See* NADIA and NAHADWIP.

Nyehattee.—Town in the 24-Parganas District, Bengal. *See* NAIHATI.

Parganas, The Twenty-four.—District in Bengal. *See* 24-PARGANAS.

Port Canning.—Village in the 24-Parganas District, Bengal. *See* CANNING, Port.

Sandarbans.—Government estate in the 24-Parganas, Khulna Districts, Bengal, and Backergunge District, Eastern Bengal and Assam. *See* SUNDARBANS.

Sealdah.—A quarter of Calcutta, Bengal. *See* CALCUTTA.

Shām Bazar.—A quarter of Calcutta, Bengal. *See* CALCUTTA.

South Barrackpore.—Town in the 24-Parganas District, Bengal. *See* BARRACKPORE.

South Dum-Dum.—Town in the 24-Parganas District, Bengal. *See* DUM-DUM.

South Suburbs.—Town in the 24-Parganas District, Bengal. *See* CALCUTTA, SOUTH SUBURBS.

Suburbs of Calcutta — *See* CALCUTTA, SUBURBS OF.

Ula.—Town in Nadiā District, Bengal. *See* BIRNAGAR.

